

Iran nuclear deal
Israeli leaders upset with potential new Iran nuclear treaty. **NEWS, PAGE 6**

George Floyd murder
Three ex-Minneapolis officers found guilty of civil rights charges. **NEWS, PAGE 6**

Bueckers cleared to play
UConn star to return against St. John's after two-month absence. **SPORTS, PAGE 1**

Messy day
Snow, sleet and freezing rain likely; high of 33. **SPORTS, PAGE 6**

Hartford Courant

VOLUME CLXXXVI COURANT.COM FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2022

UKRAINE CRISIS



Julia Stavanska, right, wipes tears from her eyes while attending a prayer service for peace in Ukraine with her husband Yaroslav Nezhyvy and daughter Julia, 6, at St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Hartford. **MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT**

RUSSIA INVADES, DOZENS DEAD

Assaults on multiple fronts as peace in Europe 'shattered'

By Yuras Karmanau, Jim Heintz and Vladimir Isachenkov
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine on Thursday, unleashing airstrikes on cities and military bases and sending in troops and tanks from three sides in an attack that could rewrite the post-Cold War security order.

Ukraine's government pleaded for help as civilians piled into trains and cars to flee.

President Vladimir Putin ignored global condemnation and cascading new sanctions as he unleashed the largest ground war in Europe since World War II, and chillingly referred to his country's nuclear arsenal. He threatened any country trying to interfere with "consequences you have never seen."

Ukrainian officials said their forces were battling Russians on a multiple fronts, but had suffered dozens of deaths and also had lost control of the decommissioned Chernobyl nuclear power plant, scene of the world's worst nuclear disaster.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy cut diplomatic ties with Moscow and declared martial law.

"As of today, our countries are on different sides of world history,"

Turn to Ukraine, Page 3



A woman walks past the debris in the aftermath of Russian shelling, in Mariupol, Ukraine, on Thursday. **EVGENIY MALOLETKA/AP**

Connecticut leaders join to decry 'unprovoked attack'

Local Ukrainian-Americans fear for families, nation

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

Connecticut's congressional and Ukrainian-American community leaders condemned Russia's wide-ranging attack on Ukraine Thursday and said the U.S. and its European allies will respond with the

full force of crippling sanctions.

Russian forces hit cities and military bases as fleeing civilians piled into trains and cars. NATO's chief said the "brutal act of war" shattered peace on the European continent, as the U.S.-led alliance mobilized more troops to move toward eastern Europe.

"A full-scale war in Europe has begun," Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo

Turn to Condemn, Page 3

National Republicans' ad targets Hayes

Digital spot tries to tie her to corrupt pols

By Christopher Keating
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — Sensing a possible close race this year, national Republicans blasted Democratic U.S. Rep. Jahana Hayes on Thurs-

day with their first digital attack ad. The ad criticizes Hayes for paying her two adult children with campaign funds for years. But Hayes has sharply rebutted the charges in recent weeks, saying the payments were fully disclosed by her campaign.

The ad by the National Republican Congressional Committee tries to tie Hayes to a long line of

Waterbury politicians with multiple pictures of former mayors who have been ensnared in political corruption cases, including Republicans Joseph Santopietro and Phillip A. Giordano. They were both sent to federal prison after FBI investigations in high-profile cases.

Turn to Hayes, Page 2



U.S. Rep. Jahana Hayes, D-Conn. **EVAN AGOSTINI/INVISION/AP**

Conn. GOP calls for school inquiry

Democrats cool to bipartisan investigation

By Christopher Keating
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — Republican legislators called Thursday for a bipartisan investigation into the ongoing school construction scandal with subpoena powers to force witnesses to testify.

Although a federal grand jury is probing potential criminal aspects of school construction, House Republican leader Vincent Candelora said a separate inquiry needs to be conducted by the state legislature regarding more than \$1 billion that has been allocated since 2018 for local public school renovations.

But Democrats, who control both chambers of the legislature, were cool to the idea, saying that the already existing committees of the legislature could look into the various aspects of school construction.

Gov. Ned Lamont fired deputy budget director Kosta Diamantis, a former Democratic legislator who oversaw school construction, after questions were raised about why chief state's attorney Richard Colangelo hired the daughter of Diamantis for a state job paying \$99,000 per year as an executive assistant at the same time that Colangelo was seeking pay raises for fellow prosecutors and himself.

Candelora said a special committee could be established in the same way as those that investigated former Gov. John G. Rowland and former Senate Republican leader Lou DeLuca, who both resigned during the investigations. Candelora said he understands that there could be criticism that Republicans were calling for an inquiry into a Democratic administration.

"I'm not denying that there is a political overtone to this," Candelora told reporters at the state Capitol in Hartford. "Just as when the Rowland scandal broke out, Democrats were chomping at the bit to take down a Republican governor. With Sen. DeLuca, I was newly elected and was quite astonished that they were collapsing over themselves to persecute a man of 30 years of public service

Turn to Investigation, Page 2

Gloria Gerena, Puerto Rican activist and mother of fugitive Victor Gerena, dies at 84

Gloria Gerena, a Hartford activist and mother of fugitive Victor Gerena, inside man for the Puerto Rican militants who stole \$7 million from a West Hartford armored car depot nearly four decades ago, has died. **Connecticut, Page 1**

Opinion.....**News, 10**
Obits**News, 12**
Lottery.....**News, 2**
Classified.....**News, 11**
Puzzles.....**Connecticut, 7, 9**
Comics.....**Connecticut, 8-9**

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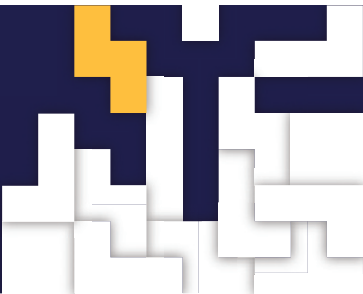
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FROM PAGE ONE

2 Connecticut inmates die in suspected fentanyl ODs

Associated Press

NEW HAVEN — Two inmates at a jail in New Haven died Thursday in a case of suspected fentanyl overdoses, prison officials said.

The two inmates were found unresponsive in the same cell by a guard conducting a routine check at the New Haven Correctional Center, the state Department of Correction said in a news release.

Medical staff administered an opioid antidote before the inmates were pronounced dead, one at a hospital and

the other at the jail, officials said. A corrections officer who showed symptoms of fentanyl exposure also was given the opioid antidote and was recovering at a hospital, officials said. The names of the inmates were not immediately released. The exact manner and cause of death will be determined by the State Medical Examiner's Office, the DOC release said. The Department of Correction Security Division, the Connecticut State Police Central District Major Crimes, and the Inspector General's Office have been notified and were on scene.

Investigation

from Page 1 themselves to persecute a man of 30 years of public service that had a personal interaction that implicated his public service.”

Rowland resigned as governor before an impeachment inquiry could be completed and eventually went to federal prison after pleading guilty to one felony count of conspiracy to commit theft of honest services and tax fraud for accepting more than \$100,000 in gifts from contractors and business executives and failing to pay taxes on them.

DeLuca pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge for conspiring to threaten his grandson-in-law in a family case and resigned from the Senate.

Candelora said that as much as \$5 million should be set aside to hire private investigators and others needed for the inquiry. The state budget surplus is projected at \$1.5 billion in the current fiscal year and more than \$1 billion for the fiscal year that starts July 1.

For years school construction was overseen by the nonpartisan Department of Administrative Services, where Diamantis previously worked. But when Diamantis was hired as the top deputy at the Office of Policy and Management, the school projects were switched to that office.

“The whole process, from top to bottom, is certainly tainted,” Candelora said. “The whole process, when it got transferred to OPM, it really ran awry.”

Senate President Pro Tem Martin Looney of New Haven and majority leader Bob Duff of Norwalk said that key legislative committees, such as education, “should hold a public hearing to examine in detail the procedures, processes and operations of the school construction program to determine what legislative action should be taken. Such a review of policy and operations is the proper role of the General

Assembly.” They added that the legislature could not conduct an investigation that would be “superior to the ongoing federal investigation” that has already lasted for months and involves the subpoena of records related to Diamantis.

“We trust the law enforcement professionals in the federal government to complete their investigation thoroughly and effectively and will not play politics or encourage unrealistic expectations of incendiary revelations,” the senators said in a statement.

House Speaker Matt Ritter of Hartford and Majority Leader Jason Rojas of East Hartford said the Lamont administration should answer questions on the issue.

“It absolutely makes sense for the executive branch to come before our legislative committees and talk about where the school construction program stands now, any changes that have been made and any improvements that are needed,” the lawmakers said in a joint statement.

Lamont's chief spokesman Max Reiss said, “The Lamont administration would welcome public hearings into the school construction program by the General Assembly's committees of cognizance. Additionally, the Lamont administration has and will continue to be cooperative with federal authorities in a separate investigation. Gov. Lamont took swift action to remove Mr. Diamantis when ethical improprieties were brought to his attention.”

But Candelora says he does not see any short-term solutions as lawmakers say it will drag on for months during an election year.

“This is not going to go away,” Candelora said. “It is going to overshadow the entire session.”

Christopher Keating can be reached at ckeating@courant.com



Former Republican Sen. George Logan announces last summer that he is running for Congress against U.S. Rep. Jahana Hayes. Former gubernatorial candidate Bob Stefanowski stands in the background. CHRISTOPHER KEATING / HARTFORD COURANT

Hayes

from Page 1 “Waterbury thought they left this corruption behind,” the narrator says in the ad. “Tell Jahana Hayes — we don't need another corrupt Waterbury politician.”

A picture of Hayes then appears with a telephone number for voters to call.

Public records show that Hayes' daughter, Asia Clermont, has received more than \$21,000 since Hayes entered Congress in 2019. Her son, David Crenshaw, has received more than \$15,000. The campaign says that Crenshaw handles technology and digital support in a part-time role, while Clermont works on scheduling.

Hayes's campaign manager, Barbara Ellis, said Hayes should not be mentioned with Giordano, who was sentenced to 37 years in federal prison for sexually abusing two girls aged 9 and 11 when he was serving as mayor.

“Comparing the Congresswoman's legal activities to the conduct of a child rapist is grasping at straws,” Ellis said. “The Congresswoman's day has been filled with meetings with public health officials and security briefings on Ukraine. Clearly, her focus and that of the NRCC are very different.

“This is not the type of campaign she will engage in.”

The attack on Hayes is a continuation of Republican efforts in the 2022 elections in which party officials believe they have national momentum due to the low poll ratings of Democratic President Joe Biden.

The Republican National Committee took partial credit this week for the victory of Bill Pizzuto in a special election to fill the seat of longtime Waterbury Republican Rep. Tony D'Amelio, who stepped down to spend more time at the restaurant that he owns at a Waterbury golf course.

Behind the scenes national Republicans were working on the get-out-the-vote efforts, including making more than 15,000 contacts with voters that included thousands of emails and text messages to remind voters. The RNC said that its efforts included “universe targeting, access to GOP data, and a door knocking and phone banking app.”

The NRCC has targeted the Hayes race, which many Republicans believe is their best chance to win their first Congressional race since U.S. Rep. Christopher Shays of Bridgeport won in 2006. Shays lost his seat in 2008, and Republicans have not won any of the five

U.S. House seats since then.

But former state Sen. George Logan of Ansonia announced in July that he is running against Hayes — setting up potentially the most competitive congressional race in Connecticut in the 2022 cycle. Logan has called for an investigation by the Democratic-controlled House Ethics Committee.

Logan, who unseated a longtime Democratic incumbent in the state Senate, is seen as a strong challenger to Hayes, a popular former public school teacher who had accumulated \$1.2 million in a campaign war chest even before Logan entered the race. Hayes won the seat in 2018 and 2020 by 12 points each time as Republicans fared poorly in Connecticut during the last two cycles under President Donald Trump.

Logan, who is Black, has criticized Hayes for strongly supporting House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, saying he would vote against Pelosi for speaker if he gets to Washington.

“I'm going to Washington to say no to radical politics and yes to radical sensibility,” Logan said at his announcement. “We don't need to grow government.

“We need to grow a healthy economy. ... We don't need politicians in Washington to tell you how to spend your money.”

Logan promised to be the polar opposite of Hayes, who has been a reliable Democratic vote. He describes himself as a moderate Republican and a fiscal conservative.

Logan has caught the attention of national Republican fundraisers as the party seeks to regain a seat that was redistricted and was once held by Republicans John G. Rowland, Gary Franks and Nancy Johnson. But Democrat Chris Murphy broke that streak by beating Johnson in 2006, and Democrats have held the seat ever since.

The contest between Hayes and Logan is historic in Connecticut with Black candidates from both major parties.

One of the criticisms raised by the state Democratic Party is that Logan lives in the 3rd Congressional District and not the 5th. After living in his home in Ansonia for 20 years, Logan said that he would “yes, yes, absolutely” move into the 5th District later this year because he has been waiting for the district lines to be redrawn according to the latest population updates from the U.S. Census.

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LOTTERY

Thursday, Feb. 24

PLAY 3 DAY

7 7 5 **WB: 6**

PLAY 4 DAY

7 0 8 9 **WB: 8**

The late lotto numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit courant.com/lottery.

WEDNESDAY'S LATE NUMBERS

PLAY 3 NIGHT

6 8 9 **WB: 9**

PLAY 4 NIGHT

7 3 4 9 **WB: 1**

CASH 5

2 8 12 15 31

LUCKY FOR LIFE

1 21 22 28 32 **LB: 1**

POWERBALL

6 17 21 35 64 **PB: 18 PP: 2**

Tonight's est. Lotto jackpot: \$1.1 million

Tonight's est. Mega Millions jackpot: \$87 million

Saturday's est. Powerball jackpot: \$58 million



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Official Approved Notice from U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Connecticut

Sexual Abuse and General Claims in The Roman Catholic Diocese of Norwich, Connecticut Bankruptcy

The Norwich Roman Catholic Diocesan Corporation, a/k/a the Roman Catholic Diocese of Norwich (“Diocese” or “Debtor”) has filed bankruptcy in order to restructure its nonprofit organization. Please read this notice carefully as it may impact your rights against the Diocese and provides information about the case, *In re The Norwich Roman Catholic Diocesan Corporation* (Bankr. D. Conn.). This notice is a short summary.

Who Should File a Sexual Abuse Claim?

Anyone who was sexually abused, on or before July 15, 2021, and believes the Diocese may be responsible for the sexual abuse must file a claim. This includes sexual abuse in connection with any entity or activity associated with the Diocese. Sexual Abuse Claims include but are not limited to: sexual misconduct, touching, inappropriate contact, or sexual comments about a person or other behaviors that led to abuse, and regardless of whether you thought the behavior was sexual abuse or not.

When Should I File a Sexual Abuse Claim?

Regardless of how old you are today or when the sexual abuse occurred, you need to file your claim so that it is received by 5 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time) on March 15, 2022.

If you do not file a timely Sexual Abuse Claim, you may lose rights against the Diocese and against Diocese Related Entities, including any right to compensation.

Your information will be kept private. For a list of names of clergy that have been identified in connection with sexual abuse claims, go to <https://www.norwichdiocese.org/Find/Accused-Clergy>. For more information on the bankruptcy case, go to <https://dm.epiq11.com/case/rcdn> or call 1-855-654-0902.

The Sexual Abuse Bar Date of March 15, 2022 is not subject to further extension, even if there is a change in the applicable statute of limitations. You should consider submitting a proof of claim even if you believe your claim may be subject to an affirmative defense such as a statute of limitations.

When Should I File a General Bar Date Claim?

If you have a non-sexual abuse claim, you will need to file so that it is received by 5 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time) on March 15, 2022. More information is available at <https://dm.epiq11.com/case/rcdn>.

ACT NOW Before Time Runs Out:

You can download and file a claim at the website or call the toll-free number listed below for help on how to file a claim by mail.



File a Proof of Claim.



Have questions? Call or visit the website for more information.



If your claim is approved, you may receive compensation from the bankruptcy.

<https://dm.epiq11.com/case/rcdn>

1-855-654-0902



FROM PAGE ONE

Condemn

from Page 1

Podolyak said. “Russia is not only attacking Ukraine, but the rules of normal life in the modern world.”

“By invading Ukraine,” U.S. Rep. Jim Himes said, “Vladimir Putin has chosen to violate international law and ignore the warnings of the United States, NATO and the community of free nations. This decision will bring terrible consequences for him and his supporters in the form of sanctions and other crippling measures. He should immediately withdraw all troops or risk an escalation in consequences that will not end well for him or his regime.”

Maria (Kukil) Brandriff, of Hamden, who was born to Ukrainian parents in a displaced persons camp in Germany after World War II, said, “I’m scared and I’m heartbroken.”

Brandriff said she has family, mostly cousins, in the nation’s western section.

“At the moment, they’re safe, but who knows how far this will go,” the retired Cheshire assistant librarian said. “I’m scared for the whole world. I think this is very destabilizing ... Putin is a madman just like Hitler was.”

“I must say one of the most damaging things occurring is (former President) Trump mouthing off about how strong and wonderful and ‘genius’ Putin is,” Brandriff said. “That’s total BS. He’s too stupid to understand the ramifications of what he’s saying.”

Trump on Tuesday praised Putin’s aggression as “genius” and called the Russian leader “very savvy” for describing the troops aligned on the Ukrainian border as peacekeepers, the New York Times reported.

Connecticut’s congressional leaders, however, universally condemned the Russian president’s aggression.

“My thoughts are with the people of Ukraine as Putin launches this premeditated, unprovoked attack,” U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal tweeted. “The USA stands with the Ukrainian people as they fight for their freedom from Russian tyranny.”

A member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Blumenthal traveled to Ukraine in January along with a bipartisan group of senators to meet with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and other national leaders to reiterate U.S. support for the people of Ukraine.

“The United States cannot look away,” he said later while speaking outside the State Capitol.

He called people he had met in Ukraine “brave” and “resolute” and said what Russia has done is an “assault on the world order we haven’t seen since World War II.”

“Costs & consequences must be swift, severe, & strong, meeting Putin’s attack on the post-WWII world order,” Blumenthal tweeted Thursday. “It is far past time to fully sanction Russia, Putin, & his oligarchs.”

“Hopefully, the American people and the global community will now recognize that Vladimir Putin is not a normal world leader,” Alexander Kuzma, a Ukrainian American resident of Wethersfield who organized the “Stand With Ukraine” rally and prayer vigil at the Capitol building in Hartford on Sunday, said Thursday.

“He is a war criminal and a psychotic killer who has — without provocation — launched an incredibly dangerous war on a country that divested itself of all nuclear weapons and bent over backwards to keep the peace with all its neighbors,” Kuzma said.

“Putin, for all his ornate czarist trappings and his ridiculous attempts at imperial grandeur is no different than a cold-blooded killer — the Charles Manson of the New Russia,” he said. “Except that Manson murdered only a handful of innocent people. Since 2014, Putin is already responsible for the death of thousands.”

“America stands with Ukraine and its



Calling Russia’s invasion of Ukraine an “Inhumane, criminal atrocity,” U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Ct., speaks Thursday on the steps of the Connecticut State Capitol. MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT



President Joe Biden waves as he departs after speaking about the Russian invasion of Ukraine in the East Room of the White House, on Thursday in Washington. ALEX BRANDON/AP

people,” U.S. Rep. John B. Larson said. “The invasion of Ukraine by Russia is unwarranted and dangerous. NATO, the US, the EU, and our allies and partners are united in confronting Russian aggression, and together, we have imposed severe sanctions on Russia. These sanctions, along with innovative export control measures, send a strong message that we will not tolerate this kind of behavior.”

“The United States has engaged in unprecedented diplomatic efforts to deter Russia from military action and offered a diplomatic path forward,” Larson said. “Instead, they have chosen to invade their neighbor because they dared to exercise their sovereign right of self-determination. There will be a profound human cost to their actions, both to troops on both sides of this conflict and to the innocent civilians caught in the crossfire. This is a humanitarian and refugee crisis.”

Larson later added his support for the announcement by Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard E. Neal, D-Mass., that the committee would explore options to further confront the invasion.

“I applaud Chairman Neal for his announcement and stand ready to work with the entire Ways and Means Committee to ensure we use every tool in our jurisdiction to confront Russia’s launch of unprovoked war,” Larson said. “As the Biden Administration imposes sweeping sanctions in response, we will work as a committee to deliver further financial consequences for Russia’s heinous disregard for human life in Ukraine. We will continue to stand in solidarity with the Ukrainian people.”

U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy tweeted: “Putin’s decision to invade is an evil, panicked move of weakness and will be his defining mistake.”

“The Ukrainian people will fight for as long as it takes to secure their nation from this foreign tyrant, and the United States will stand with them in this fight,” Murphy said in the tweet.

“Vladimir Putin and his ruling clique will pay a bitter price for his unjustified attack on the sovereign state of Ukraine and its people,” said U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney, chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces.

“Ukraine defense forces are better equipped, better trained and more determined than in 2014, when Putin forcibly seized Crimea,” Courtney said. “In addition, the U.S., NATO, EU, and G7 countries are united to punish this invasion with increasing sanctions, effectively isolating Russia’s economy and society. Every democracy has a stake in protecting the international rule of law and supporting the brave people of Ukraine.”

U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-3, said Putin’s “greed, growing aggression, and unyielding pursuit of power have brought us to this point, which will lead to grievous loss of life and humanitarian devastation.

“President Putin and his cronies must pay the full price for their actions, which are not just an attack on Ukrainian sovereignty but on global democracy,” DeLauro, who chairs the House Appropriations Committee, said.

“We must move further beyond the initial tranche of sanctions imposed by the Biden Administration to respond to Russian aggression,” she said. “In conjunction with our allies, we must terminate Russia’s participation in the global economy and fully cut off Russia’s leading financial institutions.”

Gov. Ned Lamont said he found the “unjustified, unprovoked” invasion of Ukraine “abhorrent.

“The people of Connecticut stand in solidarity with the citizens of Ukraine and pray for their safety as they endure this assault on their freedom,” Lamont said. “I commend President Biden for leading the free world in sanctioning and punishing Russia for their aggression against a sovereign, democratic, and peaceful nation.”

Other groups also offered support for the state’s Ukrainian residents.

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities said in a statement: “We are saddened by this unwarranted aggression by Russia. At CCM, our thoughts and support go to the Ukrainians who have made Connecticut their home, as well as those in Ukraine who will see many difficult days ahead.”

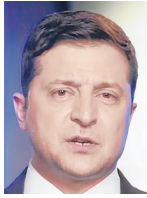
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Ukraine

from Page 1

Zelenskyy tweeted.

President Joe Biden announced new sanctions against Russia, saying Putin “chose this war” and that his country would bear the consequences of his action. Other nations also announced sanctions, or said they would shortly.



Zelenskyy

The invasion began early Thursday with a series of missile attacks, many on key government and military installations, quickly followed by a three-pronged ground assault. Ukrainian and U.S. officials said Russian forces were attacking from the east toward Kharkiv, Ukraine’s second-largest city; from the southern region of Crimea, which Russia annexed in 2014; and from Belarus to the north.

Russia and Ukraine made competing claims about damage they had inflicted.

Russia’s Defense Ministry said it had destroyed scores of Ukrainian air bases, military facilities and drones. It confirmed the loss of one of its Su-25 attack jets, blaming “pilot error,” and said an An-26 transport plane had crashed because of technical failure, killing the entire crew. It did not say how many were aboard.



People rest in the Kyiv subway, using it as a bomb shelter in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Thursday. EMILIO MORENATTI/AP

Calling them “heroes” in a video address released early Friday, Zelenskyy said 137 Ukrainian civilians and military personnel have been killed and hundreds more wounded, and that the Russians are targeting cities.

Earlier, Zelenskyy appealed to global lead-

ers, saying that “if you don’t help us now, if you fail to offer a powerful assistance to Ukraine, tomorrow the war will knock on your door.”

Hours after the invasion began, Russian forces seized control of the now-unused Chernobyl plant — site of a 1986 disaster

when a nuclear reactor exploded, sending a radioactive cloud across Europe — and its surrounding exclusion zone about 80 miles north of Kyiv after a fierce battle, Zelenskyy adviser Myhailo Podolyak said.

The Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency said it was told by Ukraine of the takeover, adding that there had been “no casualties or destruction at the industrial site.” The damaged reactor was later covered by a protective shell to prevent leaks.

Condemnation rained down not only from the U.S. and Europe, but from South Korea, Australia and beyond — and many governments readied new sanctions. Even friendly leaders like Hungary’s Viktor Orban sought to distance themselves from Putin.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said: “Peace on our continent has been shattered.”

Highlighting a widening rift in superpower relations, China stood alone in failing to condemn the attack and instead accused the United States and its allies of worsening the crisis.

After weeks of denying plans to invade, Putin launched the operation on a country that has increasingly tilted toward the democratic West. The autocratic leader made clear earlier this week that he sees no reason for Ukraine to exist, raising fears of possible broader conflict in the vast space that the Soviet Union once ruled.

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3

WAR IN UKRAINE

US slaps new sanctions on Russia

Biden: Putin to bear consequences after choosing ‘this war’

By Aamer Madhani, Zeke Miller and Ellen Knickmeyer
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden ordered broad new sanctions targeting Russia on Thursday after its invasion of Ukraine, declaring that Russian leader Vladimir Putin “chose this war” and his country will bear the consequences.

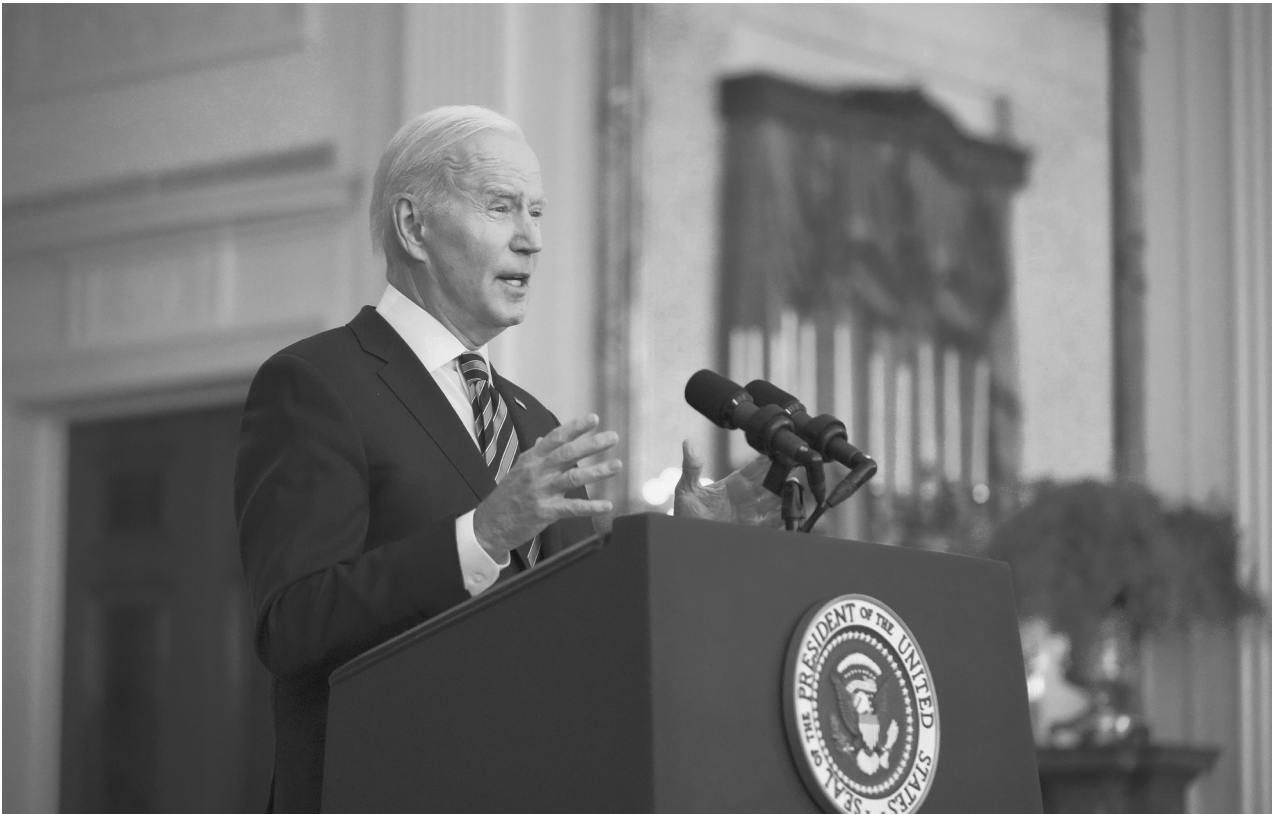
The sanctions target Russian banks, oligarchs and high-tech sectors, Biden said. The United States and its allies will block assets of four large Russian banks, impose export controls and sanction oligarchs.

Biden also said the U.S. will be deploying additional forces to Germany to bolster NATO after the invasion of Ukraine, which is not a member of the defense organization. About 7,000 additional U.S. troops will be sent.

The penalties fall in line with the White House’s insistence that it would hit Russia’s financial system and Putin’s inner circle, while also imposing export controls that would aim to starve Russia’s industries and military of U.S. semiconductors and other high-tech products.

“Putin is the aggressor,” Biden said. “Putin chose this war, and now he and his country will bear the consequences.”

Biden, for now, held off imposing some of the most severe potential sanctions,



President Biden addresses Russia’s invasion of neighboring Ukraine on Thursday in the White House. DREW ANGERER/GETTY

including cutting Russia out of the SWIFT payment system, which allows for the transfers of money from bank to bank around the globe.

Biden announced the sanctions at the White House while Ukraine’s government reported mounting casualties inflicted by Russian forces attacking from the east, north and south.

Oil and natural prices have already surged over concerns that Russia — an energy production behemoth — will slow the flow of oil and natural gas to Europe. Biden, however, acknowledged the sanctions are “going to take time”

to have their effect on the Russian economy.

He also acknowledged that the invasion — and efforts to thwart Putin — will have a cost for Americans. But he sought to reassure that the economic pain that may come with rising energy prices will be short lived for them.

As for Putin, he said, “He’s going to test the resolve of the West to see if we stay together, and we will.”

Biden spoke hours after holding a virtual meeting with the leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Italy and Japan. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, European Council President Charles

Michel, and NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg also joined the meeting.

Biden also met with his national security team in the White House Situation Room as he looked to flesh out U.S. moves in the rapidly escalating crisis.

While Biden described the sanctions as severe, Ukrainian officials urged the U.S. and West to go further and cut the Russians from the SWIFT financial system.

“We demand the disconnection of Russia from SWIFT, the introduction of a no-fly zone over Ukraine and other effective steps to stop the aggressor,” Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a tweet.

The Biden administration, however, has shown some reluctance to cut Russia from SWIFT, because of concerns the move could also have enormous ramifications for Europe and other Western economies.

Biden, answering questions from reporters, appeared to push a decision on SWIFT to European allies.

“It is always an option, but right now that’s not the position that the rest of Europe wishes to take,” Biden said. He also contended that the financial sanctions he announced would be more damaging to Russia.

The Belgium-headquartered system allows for tens

of millions of transactions daily among banks, financial exchanges and other institutions. The U.S. notably has previously blocked Iran from the system because of its nuclear program.

Officials in Europe have noted that the loss of SWIFT access by Russia could be a drag on the broader global economy. Russia has also equated a SWIFT ban to a declaration of war. And because the system cements the importance of the U.S. dollar in global finance, outright bans also carry the risk of pushing countries to use alternatives through the Chinese government or blockchain-based technologies.

The sanctions include targeting Russia’s two largest banks, Sberbank and VTB Bank. Treasury also announced sanctions against Belarusian banks, the country’s defense industry and security officials over support for Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Experts with knowledge of how the U.S. imposes sanctions say the biggest determinant of the success of such measures won’t be in the valuation of Russian markets, the ruble or other assets.

“To be honest, there aren’t any formalized systems, processes or procedures where Treasury actually makes that assessment, so that’s an interesting shortcoming but it’s a reality,” said Adam Smith, who served in the Obama administration as senior adviser in Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control. “The bigger question is, are these going to change President Putin’s mind.”

Shocked Russians decry attack against neighbor

Authorities in 54 cities detain over 1,700 in push to quiet critics

By Dasha Litvinova
Associated Press

MOSCOW — Shocked Russians turned out by the thousands Thursday to decry their country’s invasion of Ukraine as emotional calls for protests grew on social media. Some 1,745 people in 54 Russian cities were detained, at least 957 of them in Moscow.

Hundreds of posts came pouring in condemning Moscow’s most aggressive actions since the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Vladimir Putin called the attack a “special military operation” to protect civilians in eastern Ukraine from “genocide” — a false claim the U.S. had predicted would be a pretext for invasion, and which many Russians roundly rejected.

Tatyana Usmanova, an opposition activist in Moscow, wrote on Facebook that she thought she was dreaming when she awoke at 5:30 a.m. to the news, which she called “a disgrace that will be forever with us now.”

“I want to ask Ukrainians for forgiveness. We didn’t vote for those who unleashed the war,” she said.

As sirens blasted in Kyiv, Ukraine’s capital, and large explosions were heard there and in other cities, Russians were signing open letters and online petitions demanding the Kremlin halt the assault, which the Ukrainian health minister said had killed at least 57 Ukrainians and wounded dozens more.

“Public opinion is in shock, people are in shock,” political analyst Abbas Gallyamov said.

One petition, started by a prominent human rights advocate, Lev Ponomarev, garnered over 150,000 signatures within several hours and more than 330,000 by the end of the day. More than 250 journalists put their names on an open letter decrying the aggression. Another one was signed by some 250 scientists, while 194 municipal council members in Moscow and other cities signed a third.

“I’m worried about the

people very much, I’m worried to tears,” said Zoya Vorobey, a resident of Korolyov, a town outside Moscow, her voice crackling. “I’ve been watching television since this morning, every minute, to see if anything changes. Unfortunately, nothing.”

Several Russian celebrities and public figures, including some working for state TV, spoke out against the attack.

Yelena Kovalskaya, director of a state-funded Moscow theater, announced on Facebook she was quitting her job, saying “it’s impossible to work for a killer and get paid by him.”

“I know that right now many of you feel desperation, helplessness, shame over Vladimir Putin’s attack on the friendly nation of Ukraine. But I urge you not to despair,” human rights activist Marina Litvinovich said in a video statement on Facebook, calling for mass protests.

“We, the Russian people, are against the war Putin has unleashed. We don’t support this war, it is being waged not on our behalf,” Litvinovich said.

But the authorities were



Marchers voice their opposition to the invasion of Ukraine on Thursday in St. Petersburg, Russia. Similar demonstrations took place in dozens of other cities across Russia. DMITRI LOVETSKY/AP

having none of that.

In Moscow and other cities, they moved swiftly to crack down on critical voices.

Litvinovich was detained outside of her residence shortly after posting the protest call.

OVD-Info, a rights group that tracks political arrests, reported that 1,745 people in 54 cities had been detained by Thursday evening, at least 957 of them in Moscow.

Russia’s Investigative Committee issued a warning Thursday reminding Russians that unauthorized protests are against the law.

Roskomnadzor, the state communications and media watchdog, demanded that Russian media use “information and data they get only from official Russian sources.”

Some media reported that employees of certain state-funded companies were instructed not to comment publicly on the events in Ukraine.

Human rights advocates warned of a new wave of repression on dissent.

“There will be new (criminal) cases involving subverters, spies, treason, prosecution for antiwar

protests, there will be detentions of journalists and bloggers, those who authored critical posts on social media, bans on investigations of the situation in the army and so on,” prominent human rights advocate Pavel Chikov wrote on Facebook.

“It is hard to say how big this new wave will be, given that everything has been suppressed already.”

Despite the pressure from the authorities, more than 1,000 people gathered in the center of Moscow on Thursday, chanting “No to war!” as passing cars honked their horns.

Explosions in Ukraine



SOURCE: AP, BBC, Rochan Consulting

For Ukrainians, a chaotic morning of disbelief

By Jim Heintz
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — At dawn on Thursday, Ukrainians’ uneasy efforts at normalcy were shattered. Smoke rose from cities, even ones well away from a long-running separatist conflict in the country’s east.

“Today I had the worst sunrise in my life,” said a resident of Kharkiv — Ukraine’s second-largest city — who gave her name only as Sasha.

Farther from the border, a morning commute transformed into chaos, with lines of cars waiting at fuel stations or fleeing the capital, Kyiv. People carrying luggage took shelter in the subway, unsure of where to go.

Some panicked. Others clung to routine, with irritation.

“I’m not afraid. I’m going to work. The only unusual thing is that you can’t find a taxi in Kyiv,” one resident complained, as sirens

wailed.

But elsewhere in the capital, Anna Dovnya watched soldiers and police remove shrapnel from an exploded shell and was terrified. “Until the very last moment, I didn’t believe it would happen,” she said.

In Mariupol, the Azov Sea port city that many feared would be the first major target because of its strategic importance, there were similar scenes of mixed routine and fear.

Some residents waited at

bus stops, seemingly on their way to work, while others rushed to flee the city that is 10 miles from the front line with Donetsk, one of two separatist-held areas recognized by Russian President Vladimir Putin as independent this week in a prelude to the attack.

Ukrainians in the western city of Lviv began lining up outside gun shops.

“This is our land, and we will fight to the last,” said one resident, who gave his name only as Yuri.

WORLD & NATION

In Kuwait, a culture war flares up

Conservatives attack women’s rights amid political dysfunction

By Isabel Debre and Malak Harb
Associated Press

KUWAIT CITY — It all started over yoga. When an instructor in Kuwait this month advertised a desert wellness yoga retreat, conservatives declared it an assault on Islam. Lawmakers and clerics thundered about the “danger” and depravity of women doing the lotus position and downward dog in public, ultimately persuading authorities to ban the trip. The ruckus represented just the latest flashpoint in a long-running culture war over women’s behavior in the sheikdom, where tribes and Islamists wield growing power over a divided society. Increasingly, conservative politicians push back against a burgeoning feminist movement and what they see as an unraveling of Kuwait’s traditional values amid deep governmental dysfunction on major issues.

“Our state is backsliding and regressing at a rate that we haven’t seen before,” feminist activist Najeeba Hayat said recently from the grassy sit-in area outside Kuwait’s parliament. Women were pouring into the park along the palm-studded strand, chanting into the chilly night air for freedoms they say authorities have steadily stifled. For Kuwaitis, it’s an unsettling trend in a country that once prided itself on its progressivism compared to its Gulf Arab neighbors. In recent years, however, women have made strides across the conservative Arabian Peninsula. In long-insular Saudi Arabia, women have won greater freedoms under de facto leader Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.



Mashaal al-Shuwaihan, who sits on the board of Kuwait’s Women’s Cultural Society, protests outside Kuwait’s National Assembly. MAYA ALLERUZZO/AP

Saudi Arabia even hosted its first open-air yoga festival last month, something Kuwaitis noted with irony on social media. “The hostile movement against women in Kuwait was always insidious and invisible but now it’s risen to the surface,” said Alanoud Alsharekh, a women’s rights activist who founded Abolish 153, a group that aims to eliminate an article of the country’s penal code that sets out lax punishments for the so-called honor killings of women. “It’s spilled into our personal freedoms.” Just in the past few months, Kuwaiti authorities shut down a popular gym hosting belly dance classes. Clerics demanded police apprehend the organizers of a different women’s retreat called “The Divine Feminine,” citing blas-

phemy. Kuwait’s top court will soon hear a case arguing the government should ban Netflix amid an uproar over the first Arabic-language film the platform produced. Hamdan al-Azmi, a conservative Islamist, has led the tirade against yoga, accusing outsiders of trampling on Arab heritage and bemoaning the aerobic exercise as a cultural travesty. “If defending the daughters of Kuwait is backward, I am honored to be called it,” he said. The string of religiously motivated decisions has touched off outrage among Kuwaiti women at a time in which not a single one sits in the elected parliament and gruesome cases of so-called honor killings have gripped the public. In one such case, a Kuwaiti woman named Farah Akbar

was dragged from her car last spring and stabbed to death by a man released on bail against whom she had lodged multiple police complaints. The outcry over Akbar’s killing pushed parliament to draft a law that would, after years of campaigning, eliminate Article 153. The article says that a man who catches his wife committing adultery or his female relative engaged in any sort of “illicit” sex and kills her faces at most three years in prison. There also can be just a \$46 fine. But when it came time to consider the article’s abolition, Kuwait’s all-male parliamentary committee on women’s issues took an unprecedented step. It turned to the state’s Islamic clerics for a fatwa, or non-binding religious ruling, about the article. The clerics ruled last

month that the law be upheld. Before activists could absorb the blow, authorities called on clerics to answer a new query: Should women be allowed to join the army? The Defense Ministry had declared they could enlist last fall, fulfilling a long-standing demand. But clerics disagreed. Women, they decreed last month, may only join in non-combat roles if they wear an Islamic headscarf and get permission from a male guardian. The decision shocked Kuwaitis accustomed to government indifference to whether women cover their hair. “Why would the government consult religious authorities? It’s clearly one way in which the government is trying to appease conservatives and please parliament,”

said Dalal al-Fares, a gender studies expert at Kuwait University. Some advocates attribute the conservative backlash to a sense of panic that society is changing. A year ago, activists launched a groundbreaking #MeToo movement to denounce harassment and violence against women. Hundreds of reports poured into the campaign’s Instagram account with harrowing accusations of assault. Organizers in recent months have struggled to sustain the momentum as they themselves have faced rape and death threats. “The toll it took was massive. We became immediate clickbait. We couldn’t go out in public without being constantly stopped and constantly harassed,” said Hayat, who helped create the movement last year.

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WORLD & NATION

A new Iran nuke deal alarms Israel

Restoration of pact US pulled out of in 2018 appears close

By Josef Federman
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — While the world’s attention has been focused on Ukraine, the Biden administration also has been working with world powers toward restoring the 2015 international nuclear deal with Iran. After months of negotiations in Vienna, the various sides have indicated a new deal is close. But instead of the “longer, stronger” agreement originally promised by the U.S., the deal is expected to do little more than reinstate the original pact, whose key restrictions on Iranian nuclear activity expire in a few years.

This appears to be the best the Biden administration can hope for at a time when it is restrained by Congress at home, and overwhelmed abroad with the Russian invasion of Ukraine and longer-term challenges such as China and climate change.

But it is setting off alarm bells in Israel, whose leaders have grown vocal in their condemnations of a deal they fear will not prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons.

“The emerging deal, as it seems, is highly likely to create a more violent, more volatile Middle East,” Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said this week, repeating his threat that Israel is not bound by the deal and is prepared to attack Iran if needed.

Here is a closer look at the deal and what lies ahead:

How we got here. The 2015 agreement, spearheaded by former President Barack Obama, aimed to prevent Iran from being able to build a nuclear bomb. It offered Iran relief from economic sanctions in exchange for



A security guard clad in protective clothing on patrol at a uranium conversion facility in Isfahan, Iran. VAHID SALEMI/AP 2005

curbs of 10 to 15 years on its nuclear activities. Iran says its nuclear activities are peaceful.

Critics, led by then-Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, complained the restrictions were temporary, not airtight and gave Iran a pathway to developing atomic weapons capability. They also argued that the deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA, did not address Iran’s non-nuclear activity, including its support for regional proxies and its development of missiles capable of delivering a bomb.

At Netanyahu’s urging, President Donald Trump withdrew from the agreement in 2018, promising a campaign of “maximum pressure” on the Iranians. Despite tougher sanctions, that strategy appears to have backfired.

The Iranian government, now under a more hard-line leader, remains firmly

in power, and with the deal unraveling, Iran has raced ahead with uranium enrichment and other research far beyond the boundaries of the original deal.

Why not negotiate a new deal? Iran has shown little interest in a longer-term agreement. Even if one could be reached, Biden would face a tough time implementing it.

Under a 2015 U.S. law, any new agreement granting Iran relief from sanctions would require congressional approval, a process that would be slow and uncertain.

Instead, the White House has signaled it plans to argue that any deal emerging from the Vienna talks would be simply “reentering” the initial JCPOA.

That could avert a battle with Congress but means that key aspects of the original deal, such as limits on uranium enrichment, would expire in 2025. The admin-

istration appears to have concluded that a flawed short-term deal is better than nothing at all.

Why Israel is upset. Israeli leaders fear the brief remaining lifespan of the JCPOA will do little to halt Iran in the long run, especially after the technological gains Iran has made in recent years. It remains unclear whether Iran will even have to give up its stockpile of enriched uranium.

But they also fear that with sanctions eased and billions of dollars in now-frozen assets to be released, Iran would spend more on arming and funding its proxies across the region. These include Lebanon’s Hezbollah militant group and the Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups in the Gaza Strip.

“Iran is going to be more able and confident to do things it has already been doing, with more resources and confidence, and perhaps

immunity because it signed a very important agreement,” said Yoel Guzansky, an expert on Iran at Israel’s Institute for National Security Studies, a Tel Aviv think tank.

What Iran is saying. Iran has insisted on a complete lifting of U.S. sanctions imposed under the Trump administration as its economy buckles under the pressure of inflation and a currency crash.

Tehran has signaled it is willing to return to the agreement’s nuclear enrichment red lines but it wants access to \$7 billion in frozen assets and the ability to sell its oil exports unhindered.

Iran also insists it has every right to pursue peaceful nuclear energy. Israel is believed to have its own nuclear arsenal, though it has never acknowledged it.

The Biden administration has issued only limited sanctions waivers and says these moves are aimed at helping

facilitate discussions so that Iran returns to full compliance of the accord.

Iranian media frequently lambastes Israel for working to derail the talks in Vienna and says Israel has tried to pursue maximum pressure on Iran by normalizing ties with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, as well as through attacks and acts of sabotage against Iran. Israel, in turn has accused Iran of attacking Israeli-linked cargo ships passing through the region.

The International Crisis Group, an organization once headed by the top U.S. negotiator, says any success in current talks still “hinges on the political willingness, mostly in the U.S. and Iran, to accept compromises on remaining areas of disagreement, which is by no means assured.”

“After weeks of intensive talks, we are closer than ever to an agreement. Nothing is agreed until everything is agreed, though,” Iran’s top nuclear negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani was quoted in Iranian media as recently saying.

What Israel can do. Guzansky, the Israeli expert on Iran, says the upside of an agreement is that it “buys time.”

He said Israel should use the coming years to beef up its military capabilities in case it has to take action against Iran.

“We need to flex our muscles and get this option ready to use,” he said.

He also said Israel should bolster its new alliances with the Gulf Arab states, who, even if they are less outspoken, feel equally threatened by Iran.

Israel recently signed a defense pact with Bahrain, participated with dozens of nations in a U.S.-led naval exercise and is sending for the first time a naval attaché to be based at the U.S. 5th Fleet in Bahrain.

“It’s all connected,” Guzansky said.



Student Zoe Touray speaks Wednesday in Lansing, Mich., about the deadly shooting last November at her high school near Detroit. MATTHEW DAE SMITH/LANSING STATE JOURNAL

Parents of Mich. teen charged in school shooting to be tried

By Corey Williams
Associated Press

A judge on Thursday ordered the parents of a 15-year-old boy charged with killing four students at his Michigan high school to stand trial on involuntary manslaughter charges.

Rochester Hills District Court Judge Julie Nicholson said following Thursday’s preliminary examination for Jennifer and James Crumbley that she found enough evidence to send their case to circuit court.

They are charged with involuntary manslaughter and accused of making the gun used in the shooting available to the teen. The couple is also accused of failing to intervene when he showed signs of mental distress at home and at school.

Ethan Crumbley is charged as an adult with first-degree murder, assault with intent to murder, terrorism and gun charges in the Nov. 30 shooting at Oxford High School, near Detroit. In addition to the four students slain, six other students and a teacher were wounded.

The gun used in the shooting was given to Ethan Crumbley as an early Christmas present, prosecutors have said.

“The court finds that the deaths of the four victims could have been avoided if James and Jennifer Crumbley exercised ordinary care and diligence in the care of their son,” Nicholson said.

Nicholson said prosecutors showed Ethan Crumbley presented a danger to the community and “that danger was apparent to an ordinary mind.” Testimony showed that Ethan Crumbley was a “troubled young man” and his parents knew it, she said.

The Crumbleys’ attorneys insisted the couple didn’t know their son might plan an attack and didn’t make the gun easy to find in their home, but Oakland County Prosecutor Karen McDonald said Thursday that Ethan Crumbley reached out to his parents for help.

And while no help was forthcoming, the coming trouble was foreseeable, she said.

Ethan Crumbley’s counselor at the school testified earlier Thursday that

he told the teen’s parents the morning of the shootings that he believed their son was a threat to himself and needed mental health support.

“I said as soon as possible, today if possible,” Shawn Hopkins said. But, he testified, Jennifer Crumbley told him, “Today was not an option because they had to return to work.”

“I didn’t want Ethan to be alone at home,” he added.

On the morning of the shooting, Ethan’s parents were summoned to the school and confronted with his drawings, which included a handgun and the words: “The thoughts won’t stop. Help me.” Authorities said the parents refused to take him home after the 13-minute meeting.

Hopkins testified that he provided Ethan’s parents with a list of mental health support resources at that meeting and that as it was asked, Jennifer Crumbley asked, “Are we done?”

“I wrote Ethan a pass back to class,” Hopkins continued. “I told him, ‘I just want you to know I care about you.’ I don’t remember them saying goodbye (to Ethan).”

3 ex-cops convicted of rights violations in Floyd’s killing

By Amy Forliti, Steve Karnowski and Tammy Webber
Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Three former Minneapolis police officers were convicted Thursday of violating George Floyd’s civil rights, as a federal jury rejected their arguments that inexperience, improper training or the distraction of shouting bystanders excused them from failing to prevent Floyd’s killing.

J. Alexander Kueng, 28, Thomas Lane, 38, and Tou Thao, 36, were convicted of depriving Floyd of his right to medical care as the 46-year-old Black man was pinned under fellow Officer Derek Chauvin’s knee for 9 ½ minutes while handcuffed, facedown on the street on May 25, 2020.

Kueng knelt on Floyd’s back, Lane held his legs and Thao kept bystanders back.

Thao and Kueng were also convicted of failing to intervene to stop Chauvin in the videotaped killing that sparked protests in Minneapolis and around the globe as part of a reckoning over racial injustice.

Lane shook his head and looked at his attorney as his verdict was read, according to a pool report. Thao and Kueng showed no visible emotion.

The jury that appeared to be all-white reached the verdicts after two days of deliberations.

Lane is white, Kueng is Black and Thao is Hmong American.

Sentencing will be determined at a future hearing.

Conviction of a federal civil rights violation that results in death is punishable by life in prison or even death, but such sentences are extremely rare.

But Judge Paul A. Magnuson, who has wide latitude to impose a penalty, could sentence the officers to anywhere between a year and life in prison.



Former police Officers J. Alexander Kueng, left, Thomas Lane and Tou Thao. HENNEPIN COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE

The former officers will remain free on bond pending sentencing.

Chauvin, who is white, was convicted of murder last year in state court and pleaded guilty in December in the federal case. He was sentenced to 22 ½ years in the state case.

Under the plea deal in the federal case, both sides agreed Chauvin should face a sentence ranging from 20 to 25 years.

Chauvin and Thao went to the scene to help rookies Kueng and Lane after they responded to a call that Floyd used a counterfeit \$20 bill at a corner store.

Floyd struggled with officers as they tried to put him in a police SUV.

During the monthlong federal trial, prosecutors sought to show that the officers violated their training, including when they failed to move Floyd or give him CPR.

Prosecutors argued that Floyd’s condition was so serious that even bystanders without basic medical training could see he needed help.

The defense said the officers’ training was inadequate.

Unlike Chauvin, who did not testify at his trial, each of the three officers took the stand in his own defense and all said that they believed Chauvin, as the senior officer, was in charge and knew what he was doing.

Kueng and Lane both said

they deferred to Chauvin as the senior officer at the scene.

“I think I would trust a 19-year veteran to figure it out,” Thao said.

Kueng, who had Chauvin as one of his field training officers, said, “He was my senior officer, and I trusted his advice.”

Thao also testified that he relied on the other officers to care for Floyd’s medical needs as his attention was elsewhere.

The defense also tried to focus the jury’s attention on the hierarchical and paramilitary aspects of police culture — how recruits are taught to obey superiors and carry out orders without question.

Attorneys for the Floyd family said in a statement that the verdicts Thursday underscore the need for police departments nationwide to expand programs that encourage officers to stop other officers from using excessive force.

“These officers tried to devise any excuse that could let them wash the blood from their hands, but following these verdicts George’s blood will forever stain them,” the statement said.

Lane, Kueng and Thao also face a separate trial in June on state charges alleging that they aided and abetted murder and manslaughter.

The New York Times contributed.

WORLD & NATION

NEWS BRIEFING

More than half of US abortions are done with pills, report says

From news services

More than half of U.S. abortions are now done with pills rather than surgery, an upward trend that spiked during the pandemic with the increase in telemedicine, a report released Thursday shows.

In 2020, pills accounted for 54% of all U.S. abortions, up from roughly 44% in 2019.

The preliminary numbers come from the Guttmacher Institute, a research group that supports abortion rights. The group, by contacting providers, collects more comprehensive abortion data than the U.S. government.

Use of abortion pills has been rising since 2000 when the Food and Drug Administration approved mifepristone — the main drug used in medication abortions.

The new increase “is not surprising, especially during COVID,” said Dr. Marji Gold, a family medicine physician and abortion provider in New York City.

The pandemic prompted a rise in telemedicine and FDA action that allowed abortion pills to be mailed so patients could skip in-person visits to get them. Those changes could have contributed to the increase in use, said Guttmacher researcher Rachel Jones.

The FDA made the change permanent last December, meaning millions of women can get a prescription via an online consultation and receive the pills through the mail. That move led to stepped-up efforts by abortion opponents to seek additional restrictions on medication abortions through state legislatures.

The procedure includes mifepristone, which blocks a hormone needed for pregnancy to continue,

followed one or two days later by misoprostol, a drug that causes cramping that empties the womb. The combination is approved for use within the first 10 weeks of pregnancy, although some health care providers offer it in the second trimester, a practice called off-label use.

So far this year, 16 state legislatures have proposed bans or restrictions on medication abortion, according to the Guttmacher report.

Queen still recovering: Queen Elizabeth II postponed two virtual audiences as she continued to experience cold-like symptoms from COVID-19, Buckingham Palace said Thursday.

It was the second time this week that Elizabeth, 95, had canceled virtual sessions.

The monarch’s age, COVID-19 diagnosis and a health scare last year have caused worry among officials and the public. Her positive test for the coronavirus over the weekend prompted concern and get-well wishes from across Britain’s political spectrum.

The palace said Sunday that Elizabeth, who has been fully vaccinated and had a booster shot, would continue with “light” duties at Windsor Castle.

Ford pickup recall: Ford is recalling nearly a quarter-million heavy duty pickup trucks in the U.S. because the drive shafts can fracture and cause a loss of power.

The recall covers certain F-250 and F-350 Super Duty pickups from the 2017 through 2022 model years. The trucks have gasoline engines and aluminum drive shafts.

Ford says in documents posted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that heat and noise



Flower shower: Hindu priests and supporters shower flower petals during a state assembly election campaign Thursday in northern India’s Uttar Pradesh state. Uttar Pradesh, the country’s most populous state, was one of five where voters headed to the polls and where results could determine the political direction of the world’s largest democracy. **RAJESH KUMAR SINGH/AP**

insulators below the body can loosen, and touch the drive shaft. The shaft can fracture, causing a power loss, or loss of control if it hits the ground.

Failures also could let the trucks roll if they are stopped and the parking brake isn’t on.

Dealers will inspect the drive shafts and repair them if necessary, and properly attach the insulators. Owners will be notified by letter starting April 4.

Vaccines required: Hong Kong launched a vaccination requirement to enter shopping malls, restaurants and other places on Thursday as it battles an expanding omicron outbreak.

Businesses posted a QR code at their entrances for people to scan with a smartphone app to check their vaccine status before entering.

Everyone 12 and over must have at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine to enter these places. Beginning

April 30, those age 18 and above will be required to have two doses. Booster shots will be required for some starting June 30.

Hong Kong, a semi-autonomous Chinese city, is struggling to impose a zero-COVID strategy patterned on the tough measures mainland China.

In Hong Kong, the Health Department reported 8,798 new cases of people testing positive in the latest 24-hour period, the highest daily total since the start of the pandemic.

Ex-officer’s trial: Brett Hankison said he believed the Louisville, Kentucky, officers who raided Breonna Taylor’s apartment were taking fire from an AR-15 rifle, which he said prompted him to fire 10 shots into her apartment.

Hankison said as much to investigators about two weeks after his fellow officers fatally shot Taylor during a nighttime raid of the Black woman’s apartment

in March 2020.

A recording of the interview was played at Hankison’s wanton endangerment trial Thursday.

Hankison said he glanced through the open door and thought he saw “a figure in a shooting stance” with “a long gun or AR rifle.” He told the interviewer he pulled away amid rapid gunfire, turned a corner and saw more muzzle flashes through the blinds of her sliding glass door, so he opened fire in his fellow officers’ defense.

The narcotics detective was fired a few months later. Hankison was not charged in Taylor’s shooting death, but some bullets he fired through Taylor’s sliding glass door and bedroom window went into a neighbor’s apartment, coming close to striking a man inside.

Hankison is charged with three counts, endangering Taylor’s neighbor, his girlfriend and her son.

The felony is punishable in Kentucky by one to five years in prison.

Embassy detainees: Yemen’s Houthi rebels have detained another official of the long-closed U.S. Embassy there, bringing the number of local ex-U.S. Embassy staffers in the rebel group’s custody to at least 11, according to Yemeni officials and others.

The Houthis, an Iran-backed group that controls the capital, Sanaa, and much of Yemen’s north, took into custody a former press officer from the U.S. Embassy last week, according to a rights lawyer in Sanaa, Abdel-Majeed Sabra, and a family member of a detainee.

Sabra said the former embassy press officer was being held in the Houthi-run Security and Intelligence Authority facility. It’s not known whether Houthis have charged the man or any other of the detainees from the U.S. Embassy staff, he said.

Washington shut down its embassy in Yemen, the Arabian Peninsula’s poorest nation, in 2015.

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BUSINESS

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Russian invasion spurs markets to swing wildly

By Stan Choe
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Markets shuddered Thursday and then swung wildly after Russia's invasion of Ukraine threatened to push the high inflation squeezing the global economy even higher.

Initially, stocks tumbled as prices surged for oil, wheat and other commodities on worries the conflict would disrupt global supplies. But the moves moderated as the day progressed, particularly after President Joe Biden said he wanted to limit the economic pain for Americans and announced new sanctions that fell short of what some had suggested.

On Wall Street, the S&P 500 tumbled 2.6% at the start of trading before erasing the drop and flipping to a gain of 1.5%. The heaviest losses hit stocks in Europe, after officials called Russia's nearby moves a "brutal act of war," with the German DAX down 4%.

Beyond the human toll, the conflict looked set to send prices even higher at gasoline pumps and grocery stores around the world. Russia and Ukraine are major producers not only of energy but also grains

and various other commodities.

Oil prices on both sides of the Atlantic briefly jumped above \$100 per barrel to their highest levels since 2014. But they gave back much of their gains after Biden said the sanctions package is "specifically designed to allow energy payments to continue."

Ukrainian officials urged the U.S. and West to cut Russia from a crucial financial payments system called SWIFT.

"I think the market certainly could gauge here that sanctions are a little more limited, so there's not as much transmission of economic difficulties to the rest of the world" from Russia, said Rob Haworth, senior investment strategist at U.S. Bank Wealth Management.

Afterward, the price of U.S. oil settled at \$92.81, up 71 cents for the day.

Still, prices rose for everything from heating oil to wheat to gasoline. As with stocks, the movements were sharper in Europe than in the U.S. because its economy is more closely tied to Russia and Ukraine. The spot price in Europe for natural gas jumped more than 50%.

Increases in energy and food prices could amplify worries about inflation, which in

January hit its hottest level in the United States in a couple generations, and what the Federal Reserve will do in turn to rein it in.

The Fed looks certain to raise rates for the first time since 2018, with the only question being how quickly and how aggressively it will move, starting next month.

With expectations falling for a bigger-than-usual increase in rates next month, stocks that tend to benefit the most from low interest rates led the way for indexes to pare their losses through the day. That put the spotlight on big tech stocks, and Amazon, Microsoft and Nvidia all rose 4.5% or more.

That helped the Nasdaq composite swing from a 3.4% loss in the morning to a 3.3% gain by the end of the day, rising 436.10 points to 13,473.59. It was a remarkable turnaround after the Nasdaq was on track during the morning to close 20% below its record high for the first time since the coronavirus collapsed the economy in 2020.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average, which isn't as influenced by big-tech stocks, rose a more modest 92.07 points, or 0.3%, to 33,223.83. It rallied back from an earlier 859-point loss. The S&P 500 rose 63.20 points to 4,288.70.

Over 1.7M Hondas to be probed for braking

By Tom Krisher
Associated Press

DETROIT — U.S. auto safety regulators are investigating complaints that the automatic emergency braking systems on more than 1.7 million newer Hondas can stop the vehicles for no reason.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says it has 278 complaints that the problem can happen in 2017 through 2019 CR-V SUVs and 2018 and 2019 Accord sedans. The agency announced the probe in documents posted Thursday on its website.

In some cases the owners complained of unexpected speed reductions that could cause increased vulnerability to rear collisions. Agency documents say the inadvertent braking can occur without warning and randomly.

In six cases, owners told the agency the problem caused collisions with minor injuries.

The agency says it's opening the probe to determine how many vehicles are affected and how bad the problem is. The investigation could lead to a recall.

In a statement, Honda said it's cooperating with the investigation and is continuing its own review. The company said consumers who experience any problems should contact their dealership.

Automatic emergency braking systems have great lifesaving potential. They can stop crashes or slow vehicles if drivers are impaired or are not paying attention when something is in the way. But they also can react to shadows, overpasses or other things that appear to be obstructions.

The systems are becoming widespread. In 2016, 20 automakers covering most of the industry agreed to voluntarily make automatic emergency braking standard on nearly all new vehicles by Sept. 1, 2022.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

US jobless claims reach 52-year low

WASHINGTON — The number of Americans collecting unemployment benefits fell to a 52-year low after another decline in jobless aid applications last week.

Jobless claims fell by 17,000, from 249,000 to 232,000 for the week ending Feb. 19, the Labor Department reported Thursday. The four-week average for claims, which compensates for weekly volatility, fell by 7,250 to 236,250. It was the third consecutive week of declines after rising for five weeks in a row as the omicron variant of the coronavirus spread.

In total, 1,476,000 Americans were collecting jobless aid for the week ending Feb. 5, a decrease of about 112,000 from the previous week and the lowest level since March 14, 1970, the government said.

Moderna vaccine sales jump 44%

COVID-19 vaccine sales jumped 44% for Moderna in the final quarter of 2021, and the drugmaker expects demand for booster shots to fuel more growth in 2022.

Cambridge, Massachusetts-based Moderna said Thursday that it has signed purchase agreements for about \$19 billion in sales for 2022 with options for an additional \$3 billion that would cover any updated boosters the company is developing.

Company leaders told analysts they firmly believe more booster shots will be required next fall, and they expect sales to be greater in the second half of the year.

Moderna booster shots have already been administered to more than 40 million people in the U.S., and its vaccine is now available in more than 70 countries.



Amber Payne, left, and Deborah Douglas are co-editors-in-chief of the new online publication, The Emancipator. CHARLES KRUPA/AP

‘It’s anti-racism, every day’

The Emancipator newspaper is revived to ‘reframe’ racial justice conversation in the US

By Philip Marcelo
Associated Press

BOSTON — America's first newspaper dedicated to ending slavery is being resurrected and reimagined more than two centuries later as the nation continues to grapple with its legacy of racism.

The revived version of The Emancipator is a joint effort by Boston University's Center for Antiracist Research and The Boston Globe's Opinion team that's expected to launch in the coming months.

Deborah Douglas and Amber Payne, co-editors-in-chief of the new online publication, say it will feature written and video opinion pieces, multimedia series, virtual talks and other content by scholars and journalists. The goal, they say, is to "reframe" the national conversation around racial injustice.

"I like to say it's anti-racism, every day, on purpose," said Douglas, who joined the project after working as a journalism professor at DePauw University in Indiana.

"We are targeting anyone who wants to be a part of the solution to creating an anti-racist society because we think that leads us to our true north, which is democracy."

The original Emancipator was founded in 1820 in Jonesborough, Tennessee, by iron manufacturer Elihu Embree, with the stated purpose to "advocate the abolition of slavery and to be a repository of tracts on that interesting and important subject," according to a digital collection of the monthly newsletter at the University of Tennessee library.

Before Embree's death from a fever ended its brief run later that year, The Emancipator reached a circulation of more than 2,000, with copies distributed throughout the South and in cities like Boston and Philadelphia that were centers of the abolition movement.

Douglas and Payne say drawing on the paper's legacy is appropriate now because it was likely difficult for Americans to envision a country without slavery back then, just as many people today likely can't imagine a nation without racism. The new Emancipator was announced last March, nearly a year after the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police sparked social justice movements worldwide.

The publication also hopes to serve as a bulwark against racist misinformation, with truth-telling explanatory videos and articles, Douglas added.

"Every time someone twists words, issues, situations or experiences, we want to be there like whack-a-mole, whacking it down with the facts and the context," Douglas said.

The project has already posted a couple of representative pieces. To mark the one-year anniversary of the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol building, The Emancipator published an interview with a Harvard social justice professor and commentary from a Boston College poetry professor.

It also posted on social media a video featuring Ibram X. Kendi, founding director of BU's anti-racism center and author of "How to be an Antiracist," reflecting on white supremacy. Kendi co-founded the project with Bina Venkataraman, editor-at-large at The Boston Globe.

And while the new Emancipator is primarily focused on the Black community, Douglas and Payne stress it will also tackle issues facing other communities of color, such as the rise in anti-Asian hate during the coronavirus pandemic.

DOJ sues to block \$13B UnitedHealth deal

By David McCabe
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department on Thursday sued to block a \$13 billion acquisition of a health technology company by a subsidiary of UnitedHealth Group, in the latest move by the Biden administration to clamp down on corporate consolidation.

The agency argued that a deal by UnitedHealth to buy the health tech firm Change Healthcare would give UnitedHealth sensitive data that it could wield against its competitors in the insurance business. Change Healthcare offers technology services to insurers.

A spokesperson for Optum, the United-

Health subsidiary, said in a statement that the Justice Department's "deeply flawed position is based on highly speculative theories that do not reflect the realities of the health care system" and that the company would "defend our case vigorously."

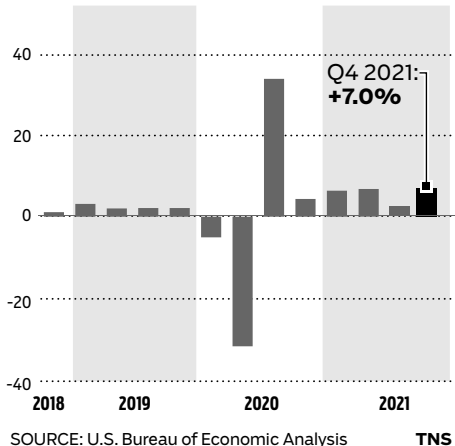
The deal is the latest transaction to run into opposition from the Biden administration, which has made countering corporate consolidation a central part of its economic agenda. President Joe Biden signed an executive order last year to spur competition in different industries. He also appointed Lina Khan, a prominent critic of the tech giants, to lead the Federal Trade Commission, and Jonathan Kanter, a lawyer who has represented large companies, as chief of antitrust efforts at the Justice Department.

Since then, the FTC has blocked Lockheed Martin from buying a maker of missile propulsion systems and the chip giant Nvidia from purchasing the design firm Arm. Even before Kanter was confirmed, the Justice Department sued to block the merger of two major insurance brokers; the purchase of Simon & Schuster by the publisher Penguin Random House; and a deal that would have married some of JetBlue's operations with those of American Airlines.

UnitedHealth is one of the largest health corporations in the U.S., with \$287.6 billion in revenue in 2021. Its Optum unit also owns physician practices, a large chain of surgery centers and one of the nation's largest pharmacy benefit managers.

GDP

Percent change from previous quarter, seasonally adjusted, advance estimate:



Helen Bennett
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OPINION

COURANT.COM/OPINION

Autocratic Putin playing with fire in Ukraine

By Clara Ferreira Marques
Bloomberg Opinion

The worst, it seems, has now happened in Ukraine. In a pre-dawn televised address, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced he had ordered an operation aimed at demilitarizing Ukraine. He blamed the U.S. for crossing “red lines.” Kyiv, he said, would be responsible for any bloodshed. Reports of explosions and gunfire in cities across the country began immediately.

It’s a dark moment for Russia, for Ukraine, for Europe — the darkest in Putin’s two decades at the helm. It is also a point of no return for Russia’s leader, and one with lasting consequences for the world.

Putin has fallen into the autocrats’ trap. Isolated, he is no longer able to weigh up reality as it is, but sees his fears instead. He is obsessed with what he perceives as the threat from Ukraine’s westward drift, and with turning back the clock to reset the post-Cold War order. His speech Thursday — ranging from Russia’s weakness

at the time of the collapse of the Soviet Union, to Iraq, Yugoslavia and a chilling warning against Western intervention — was hardly the product of a cool, rational mind. It could not have contrasted more sharply with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s earlier moving appeals for peace, made directly to ordinary Russians. U.S. President Joe Biden called Russia’s actions a “premeditated war.”

Hubris, paranoia, military adventurism — a heady combination, and one that has been fatal for dictators and their regimes. And Putin is starting a war Russians do not want, for which they will pay the cost.

Political scientist Daniel Treisman, in his study of autocrats’ last acts, found that most regimes come to an end through mistakes, whether because they ignored change or, like Argentina’s Leopoldo Galtieri, embarked on an ill-advised war. He invaded the Falklands in 1982, assuming Britain would not fight and that his population would unite behind him. He was misguided, and the blunder was terminal.

Russia is not Argentina, and there will be no such immediate repercussion for Putin,

whatever happens. Increased repression at home is in fact the most likely consequence from this show of force abroad — either because the Kremlin can, or because it must.

But consequences can play out over time, and the Russian president appears to be unraveling. Even by the standards of a repressive authoritarian regime with a history of false-flag operations and fabricated pretexts for war — and for an autocrat with a penchant for macho, reckless military pursuits and for rewriting the past — the last few days have been hard to comprehend. A rambling, hourlong speech on Monday laced with wild accusations, portraying Ukraine as Vladimir Lenin’s invention. Then a staged Security Council meeting with senior officials being made to publicly support Putin and the recognition of the separatist republics. Now, a war that, stretching credulity to the limit, Putin says will “denazify” Ukraine — a country that suffered brutally during World War II.

He made his move, moreover, while the U.N. Security Council was meeting, in a last-ditch attempt to avoid conflict.

What is remarkable is not just the ambition of what Putin is undertaking, a full-scale military operation with little regard for repercussions, an effort to destroy a neighbor and destabilize the region. It’s also the scale of the delusion, when it comes to the threat posed by NATO and — crucially — his country’s long-term ability to bear the human and financial cost of isolation. Yes, Moscow has built up central bank reserves and a war chest, but this is a country whose economy is stagnating, and one that’s already struggling to deal with a health crisis as COVID-19 races through an undervaccinated population.

The West must now dramatically ramp up sanctions, reaching far beyond individuals into Russia’s state banks and more — even if few options now come without a cost for Europe and the rest of the world. Vladimir Putin has already begun the war no one but Kremlin hawks wanted. Now only the toughest measures can hold him back.

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Guess who wants your money?



Gail Collins

Hard to avoid thinking about Donald Trump when he’s calling Vladimir Putin’s current behavior “genius.” Just when you’re geared up to block the guy out of your life for a while, he makes a scene.

Although to be honest, ignoring him is almost always pretty difficult. So far this month, I’ve received at least 230 emails from our former president, asking for money.

Oh, wait. Another just came in. “President Trump wants YOU to be our 1 Millionth Donor,” it announced.

If you’re tempted by the offer, you’re directed to a button that takes you to a second page, where you, the lucky donor, can fill out information about yourself and your credit card, right after an already-checked box that reads, “Make this a monthly recurring donation.”

This is an old, old Trumpian trick, but he apparently never gets tired of it.

“I know I don’t need to tell you that my father will go down in history as one of the greatest American presidents. EVER,” Don Jr. wrote in one of his many contributions to the endless barrage.

In another email, Junior lurched into a classic Trump fundraising promotion, in which anyone who gives \$20 will get credit for donating \$220. How? Well, beats me. The bigger figure doesn’t seem to mean anything at all. I guess the idea is to imagine that when the Trumps sit down at dinner to talk about how much their friends contributed over the weekend, they’ll think you chipped in some big bucks.

It’s been a tough time for Donald Trump. Lost the election. Big disaster on Jan. 6. Reports of ripped-up paper in the White House toilet. Even Mike Pence has ditched him.

But on one front, his political career is absolutely on track. Hard to believe he won’t go down in history as our era’s most creative email fundraiser.

Really, the money comes pouring in. There’s more than \$100 million sitting around and apparently very little Trump can spend it on except political activities.

Whoops. Here comes another letter from Donald Jr.:

“Friend, on behalf of my father, I am officially inviting YOU to be his VIP dinner guest in NEW ORLEANS.

“You’re one of my father’s VERY BEST supporters, and he REALLY wants to meet you, Friend. All you have to do is enter.”



Merchandise featuring former President Donald Trump at a store this month in Trump Tower in New York. **SPENCER PLATT/GETTY**

Well, all you have to do is enter, beat out all of Dad’s other very best supporters and ...

The massive email operation is actually one of the very few pieces of the Trump empire that seem to be working well. Look down your nose at his real estate holdings, cluck sadly at his attempts to find a social network to love. Speculate about the investigations into his business associates, every single one of whom is probably named Friend.

Donald Trump has been trying to do a lot of things since he lost his reelection campaign, but the only one that’s appeared to be really, truly successful is emailing for cash.

People just seem to get into this stuff. Right after Junior’s letter about New Orleans came another:

URGENT
CONTRIBUTE NOW
Friend,
We booked you a plane ticket to meet President Trump in New Orleans.
Are you going to accept?

Wait a minute! Is this the same plane ticket I have to enter a contest to win?

Yeah. But it’s nice sometimes to get an email that sounds superoptimistic, right? If we only focused on the things that weren’t made up, we’d never get another chance to talk about the Mexican wall. And even if you never get a trip to New Orleans, you can tell yourself that Donald did kind of invite you, sort of. Bet \$10 and it’s a win-win.

By the way, we hear so much about the exciting prizes Trump’s email readers can aspire to, isn’t it sort of weird we don’t see more about actual winners? Pictures of every lucky donor whose \$10 translated into a free flight to New Orleans and a chance to really hang out with the Donald? Maybe they’re shy.

Or maybe even the fans who play — and donate — understand that on some level that this is just a game.

“Friend,” says a Trump email from last weekend. *“I’ve never done this before ...*

“I just got off the phone with my team and they told me that your name was

MISSING from the FINAL list of supporters who contributed to win a trip to meet me in Florida.

“I really want to meet you, so I’ve decided to give you the chance to ENTER TWICE.”

OK, very silly game. But you can understand why some people might enjoy the ride. There are lots of candidates running in serious races right now, most of them trying desperately to raise money. Generally their strategy to get your help is convincing you the current situation is terrible. (“Horrible, terrible, very bad news.”)

Now that Trump’s very, very cheerful email fundraising appears to be so wildly successful, other Republicans are muttering that they’re being crowded out of the action. Hard to imagine they can elbow in. You really would need a game-show-hosting background to make this thing work.

Wait — here comes another email.

Collins is a columnist for The New York Times.

Government inflation ‘fixes’ could further increase prices

By Rachel Greszler
The Heritage Foundation

With inflation at a 40-year high, politicians understandably want to ease inflationary pains.

The good news is that federal lawmakers can help by paring back deficit-financed spending and removing government-imposed barriers to work and economic activity.

The bad news is that many politicians are instead looking for “easy” artificial fixes, like temporarily suspending the federal gasoline tax or mandating higher minimum wages, which could make things worse.

Take President Joe Biden’s recent executive order requiring a \$15 minimum wage for all federal employees and federal contractors.

Now, \$15 per hour doesn’t seem like all that much, and since inflation hurts lower-income Americans the most (because they spend a higher portion of their income), it might seem like a good idea to mandate higher minimum wages.

The problem, however, is that higher wages that come from government command can hurt the people they aim to help.

One of those unintended consequences

is higher inflation.

Misguided COVID-19 policies, which functioned as artificial wage increases, demonstrate how artificial wage increases cause higher prices.

The widely available and supersized pandemic unemployment insurance benefits functioned like a massive minimum-wage increase. With two-thirds of unemployed workers able to make more from unemployment than from working, employers had to raise wages.

Fast-food restaurants started offering \$15 or more per hour, sometimes complete with \$1,000 signing bonuses, paid family leave or tuition assistance. Between March 2020 and March 2021, the reservation wage — the lowest wage at which workers say they are willing to accept a job — jumped 26%, from \$40.197 to \$50.825.

Higher wages are a great thing if they come as a result of workers becoming more productive. But if employers have to pay people more to do the exact same thing, they have to raise prices.

A whopping 48% of employers reported that they increased compensation in December 2021, and 32% said they planned to raise compensation over the next three months.

While workers’ median hourly wages are up 5.7% over the past year, 7.5% infla-

tion has more than erased those gains.

Minimum-wage increases will add to this inflationary cycle. And that’s just the start of minimum wage laws’ unintended consequences.

Studies show that employers who are forced to pay above-market wages respond by eliminating low-wage jobs, not hiring inexperienced or marginalized workers, reducing or eliminating benefits like health insurance and retirement contributions, imposing irregular schedules, and cutting workers’ hours.

The White House’s statement announcing the \$15 federal minimum claims “we know that higher wages boost productivity.”

If that’s true, why wouldn’t companies have \$100, or even \$1,000 minimum wages?

The president is correct that wages are linked to productivity — but he’s got the relationship reversed; higher productivity boosts wages. And education, experience, and investments in technology are the keys to productivity gains.

But the alternative of increasing wages in hopes of higher productivity is like voluntarily paying higher tuition in hopes of earning a higher salary upon graduation; it’s not the tuition price, but students’ performance that affects what they

produce and earn.

Federal employees already receive significant compensation premiums and lack accountability, as only 21% of federal workers say that pay raises depend on how well people do their jobs, and only a third believed that promotions are based on merit.

That suggests that federal lawmakers could boost productivity and pay by shifting to performance-based pay, which economic studies have shown lead to wage increases of 6% to 10%.

Minimum-wage jobs aren’t career aspirations, and they certainly aren’t enough to support a family. Fortunately, few workers remain in minimum-wage jobs for long, and only 0.07% of workers in the U.S. are single parents living in poverty while earning the minimum wage.

But minimum wage jobs have been stepping stones for many Americans (myself included) to gain the experience necessary to move up the income ladder. Cutting off the bottom rungs of the ladder through minimum wage laws would be especially harmful for individuals with disabilities, limited English language abilities, criminal histories or limited education.

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Rentals

WEST HARTFORD
WAITING LIST OPENING
THE RESIDENCES AT 540 NEW PARK

The Residences at 540 New Park
will be accepting pre-applications
for apartments located at 540 New
Park Avenue, West Hartford CT 06110.
Eligibility for these units is subject to
household income limits and other
eligibility criteria under the federal
Low-Income Housing Tax Credit
(LIHTC) Program.

Current 2021-2022 LIHTC Maximum
Income Limits:

1 PERSON - \$43,860
2 PERSONS - \$50,100
3 PERSONS - \$56,340
4 PERSONS - \$62,580

Rents will range from approximately
\$837-\$1033 for a one bedroom and
\$995-\$1230 for a two bedroom unit
depending on household income level
(prices subject to change).

Interested applicants must apply
between February 16, 2022 and May
17, 2022 11:59pm. Applicants may
apply by:

- Submitting a pre-application online
at www.540NewPark.com; or
- Requesting a paper pre-application
be mailed to the applicant, which
must be returned by mail to
ATTENTION: Residences at 540 New
Park Waitlist 80 Shield Street, West
Hartford CT 06110 with a postmark
date between February 16, 2022 and
May 10, 2022, and received no later
than May 17, 2022; or
- Requesting an appointment during
the application period if assistance
is needed to complete the pre-
application. Please note: Assistance
with completing the application will
be offered by appointment ONLY due
to the current COVID Pandemic.

If you have a disability and require a
Reasonable Accommodation, please
call 860-993-7109.

Only one pre-application per family
will be accepted; duplicate pre-
applications will be disqualified.

This pre-application is accessible
through any computer, tablet or smart
phone. After successfully completing
the pre-application, you may print the
confirmation of successful completion
of your application.

The Residences at 540 New Park will
use a Random-Draw Lottery System
to determine the waiting list order
from all applications.

The Residences at 540 New Park
does not discriminate in admission or
access to its housing or programs. Any
eligible individual with disabilities will
be served. Those who have visual or
hearing impairments will be provided
with the necessary information to
understand and participate in the
program. Efforts will be coordinated
to comply with the nondiscrimination
requirements of the Fair Housing Act.
This is an equal opportunity housing
development. www.540NewPark.com

Auto & SUV's

MERCEDES-BENZ E-CLASS 2015
\$27499.00 Beautiful Mint!!! 2015
Mercedes Benz E350 8605188587

Antiques/ Classics

PORSCHE 914 1974 - \$2200 Solid
Rolling Chassis Call No Txt 860-
203-6629



courant.com/advertiser
860-525-2525

Auto / Truck Wanted

CASH PAID

for any Toyota, other makes. Any
condition. Running or not, crashed
okay. Will take other makes and
models. 203-600-4431

NEWSPAPER SERVICES



Dr. Smith may be entitled to an appeal. Such
an appeal must be commenced by the filing
of a Notice of Appeal with the State Medical
Board and the Franklin County Court of
Common Pleas. The Notice of Appeal must
set forth the Order appealed from and state
that the State Medical Board's Order is not
supported by reliable, probative, and sub-
stantive evidence and is not in accordance
with law. The Notice of Appeal may, but is
not required to, set forth the specific grounds
of the appeal. Any such appeal must be
filed within fifteen (15) days after the last
date of publication in accordance with the
requirements of Section 119.12, Ohio Revised
Code. Please contact the undersigned to
ascertain the last date of publication.

FLAVOR

See what's cookin'.
Every Thursday.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Connecticut

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town
of Suffield will conduct a public hearing by
the Board of Selectmen on Tuesday, March
15, 2022 at 7:00 PM in-person in the
Town Hall Conference Room, 83 Mountain
Road, Suffield CT 06078, with a remote
option via Zoom to discuss the Fiscal Year
2022 Community Development Block Grant
program and to solicit citizen input.
Zoom Meeting Call in number: 4-646-876-
9923 Meeting ID: 886 7533 5350 Meeting
Password: 890365
Maximum award limits:
Up to \$1,500,000 for Public Housing
Modernization (including pre-development
and construction); with priority to State
Sponsored Housing Portfolio (SSHP).
Up to \$1,000,000 for Infrastructure as-
sociated with the development of Affordable
Housing (e.g., streets sidewalks, sewer lines,
windmills);

Major activity categories are: Acquisition,
Housing Rehabilitation, Public Housing
Modernization, Community Facilities, Public
Services, and Economic Development.
Projects funded with CDBG allocations in the
carry out at least one of three National
Objectives: benefit to low and moderate-
income persons, elimination of slums and
blight, or meeting urgent community develop-
ment needs.

The purpose of the public hearing is to obtain
citizen's views on the Town's community
development and housing needs and review
and discuss specific project activities in the
areas of housing, economic development or
community facilities which could be part of
the Town's new Application for funding for the
year 2022.

Also, the public hearing will be to give citi-
zens an opportunity to make their comments
known on the program and for approval
of the Program Income Reuse Plan. If you
are unable to attend the public hearing, you
may direct written comments to the Town of
Suffield, Planning and Zoning Department,
83 Mountain Road, Suffield, CT 06078,
or you may email Bhawkins@SuffieldCT.gov, or you may telephone 860-668-3848.
Comments must be received no later than
4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15, 2022. In
addition, information may be obtained at the
above address between the hours of 8:00
a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Mon-Thru and 8 a.m. to
1 p.m. on Friday.

The Planning and Zoning Department on
behalf of the Town of Suffield anticipates
applying for the maximum grant amount of
\$1,500,000 under the eligible activity of
Public Housing Modernization. In addition,
the Town of Suffield will continue its revolving
loan fund with program income generated
from the housing rehabilitation loan program.

The Town of Suffield promotes fair housing
and makes all programs available to low- and
moderate-income households regardless of
race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry,
sex, gender identity or expression, marital
status, age, law source of income, familial
status, learning disability or physical/mental
disability, or sexual orientation.

All are encouraged to attend. Any disabled
persons requiring special assistance or non-
English speaking persons should contact Ted
Flanders, ADA Coordinator at 860-668-3878
at least five days prior to the hearing. Equal
Opportunity/Affirmative Action
Dated this 25th day of February and 10th day
of March 2022
2/25, 3/10/2022 7157082

Hartford

In the Matter of:
Ronald David Smith, MD
21-CRF-0027

On November 12, 2021, the State Medical
Board of Ohio mailed an Order of Indefinite
Suspension to Ronald David Smith, MD via
certified mail, return receipt requested, to
his last known address of record, 574 Willis
Street, Bristol, CT 06010. The Order was
received by the Board from the postal service
marked "return to sender, unable to forward".
A copy of the Notice is available on the
Board's website at www.elicense.ohio.gov.

Dr. Smith may be entitled to an appeal. Such
an appeal must be commenced by the filing
of a Notice of Appeal with the State Medical
Board and the Franklin County Court of
Common Pleas. The Notice of Appeal must
set forth the Order appealed from and state
that the State Medical Board's Order is not
supported by reliable, probative, and sub-
stantive evidence and is not in accordance
with law. The Notice of Appeal may, but is
not required to, set forth the specific grounds
of the appeal. Any such appeal must be
filed within fifteen (15) days after the last
date of publication in accordance with the
requirements of Section 119.12, Ohio Revised
Code. Please contact the undersigned to
ascertain the last date of publication.

Any questions or correspondence should be
addressed to:
Jackie Moore
Case Control Office
30 E. Broad Street, 3rd Floor
Columbus, OH 43215-6127
jackie.moore@med.ohio.gov
2/11, 2/18 & 2/25/22 7148433

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
CITY OF WEST HAVEN
PAMELA BELLMORE GARDNER MEMORIAL
LECTURE HALL
CITY BID NO. 2022-08
GILBANE JOB NO. J09551.000

1 Gilbane Building Company and the City of
West Haven are soliciting bids for the Pamela
Bellmore Gardner Memorial Lecture Hall
Project. Sealed bids for the bid packages
listed in the Gilbane Project Manual will be
received by the City of West Haven until
2:00PM prevailing local time on Thursday
March 24, 2022 at West Haven City Hall.
Bids will be opened and publicly read aloud
shortly following the close of the bid period
at West Haven City Hall, 355 Main Street,
West Haven, CT 06516. Late bids or bids
received at any other location will not be
accepted.

2 Detailed invitation to bid instructions and
details may be found in the Gilbane Project
Manual. Plans, specifications, and the
Gilbane Project Manual may be downloaded
free of charge from the below link:
<https://dn.gilbaneco.com/?linkid=KZl4zr6VWW6anJGouWk5s2x5R4uMWSiL0DS6ncAGbVD1ezXpJw>

3 Gilbane Building Company is an Affirmative
Action Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/H/V.

Stephanie Greenman
Preconstruction Manager
Gilbane Building Company
2/25/22 7157864



NOTICE

The City of Hartford Zoning Board of Appeals
will hold a Virtual Regular Meeting on
Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. to hear
the following public hearing items:
a. 347 Wethersfield Ave - Request for a
Use Variance from Figure 3.2-A to allow a
neighborhood retail grocery store use on
the ground floor of a building in the NX-1
Neighborhood Mix Zoning District. Owner:
Ciprian Torres; Applicant: Pedro De la Cruz.
b. 44 Guilford St - Appeal of a Zoning
Enforcement Cease & Desist Order dated
November 10, 2021 (code case number
10289379) for unpermitted outdoor storage
yard, and outdoor storage of construction
equipment, parts, materials and sup-
plies, pursuant to Section 1.3.8, Section
1.4.2.A, and Section 3.3.9.C of the Zoning
Regulations. Owner: Charles Taylor Jr.;
Applicant: Thaddeus Taylor.
Meeting information and documents are
available online: <https://www.meetinginfo.org/meetings/1712>. Documents are avail-
able for inspection by appointment at 260
Constitution Plaza, Hartford, CT 06103.
2/18, 2/25/2022 7151319

Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center Public Notice

Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center
(The Applicant) is filing an application for a
Certificate of Need under section §19a-638
of the Connecticut General Statutes. The
Applicant is requesting approval to establish
an outpatient substance abuse treatment
facility at the Burdord Clinic, located at
131 Coventry Street, Hartford, Connecticut
06112. The total capital expenditure of this
project is \$250,000.
2/23, 2/24, 2/25/2022 7154289

STATE OF CONNECTICUT SUPERIOR COURT JUVENILE MATTERS

ORDER OF NOTICE

Notice to: Zenaida Casillas, mother of
female child born 6/11/2020
of parts unknown.

A petition has been filed seeking:
Termination of parental rights of the above
named in minor child(ren).

The petition, whereby the court's decision
can affect your parental rights, if any,
regarding minor child(ren) will be heard on:
4-1-2022 at 3:15 p.m. at 20 Franklin Sq. 3rd
Floor, New Britain CT 06051.

Therefore, ORDERED, that notice of the
hearing of this petition be given by publishing
this Order of Notice once, immediately upon
receipt, in the: Hartford Courant, a newspa-
per having a circulation in the town/city of:
Hartford, CT.

Judge: Hon. Sheila Huddleston
Signed: Peter Fradiani, Deputy Clerk
Date signed: 2-23-2022

Right to Counsel: Upon proof of inability to
pay for counsel, the court will make sure an
attorney is provided to you by the Chief Public
Defender. Request for an attorney should be
made immediately in person, by mail, or by
fax at the court office where your hearing is
to be held.
2/25/2022 7157803

Hartford

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF GRANBY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Town of Granby requests proposals
from qualified firms or individuals for profes-
sional and technical services, as required
to implement the Town's on-going Housing
Rehabilitation Program and to provide ad-
ministrative and technical support for other
activities, if approved, for an approximate
three-year period. The Town's Housing
Rehabilitation Program is currently funded
with Loan Repayments.

The selected contractor will work under the
Town's direct supervision and be responsible
for all phases of general program adminis-
tration and compliance, excluding funds
disbursement, and including such specific
project administrative activities as Section
3, Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, Davis-
Bacon compliance, housing rehabilitation
delivery, etc.

Specific architectural and engineering
services required for project activities are
not being requested as part of this proposal.

Three copies of the proposal must be
submitted to the Community Development
Department, Granby Town Hall, 15 North
Granby Road, Granby, CT 06035, no
later than 11:00 a.m., on March 25, 2022.
Proposals must include the following
information:

- Proposed scope of work and project
approach;
- Detailed information of the firm's back-
ground and experience. Small Cities Program
experience is required.
- Key staff assigned with resumes;
- Proposed fee approach including a list of
per diem rates by job category.

Each proposer must provide a certification
of insurance in the types and amounts
specified by the Town and as required by the
Department of Housing.

Additional information is available by contact-
ing Abigail Kenyon, Director of Community
Development at (860) 844-5319, between
the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday
through Thursday.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE
ACTION EMPLOYER
WBE/SBE/MBE & SECTION 3 DESIGNATED
BUSINESSES ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY
2/25/22 7153834

LEGAL NOTICE West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District 580 Cottage Grove Road, Suite 100, Bloomfield, CT Virtual Public Hearing

The West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District
will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March
01, 2022 at 4pm via Zoom to receive com-
ments on the proposed Fiscal Year 2022-
2023 Health District budget. Copies may be
obtained from the West Hartford-Bloomfield
Health District office or on the Health
District's website, www.westhartfordct.gov/health. The public hearing will be conducted
exclusively as a virtual public hearing in
accordance with Governor Lamont's execu-
tive orders regarding the conduct of public
meetings and proceedings.

Any interested person(s) may participate
in the public hearing by calling at the scheduled
date and time and using the following access
code:
March 1, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. Zoom Meeting
ID: 842 4998 4990 Call: +1 301 715 8592
Access Code: 32355 caller ID blocking will not
be permitted to participate. Participants will
be muted upon entry into the public hearing
and only unmuted once prompted by the
Chair/Moderator.
2/18/2/26/22 7143536

Legal Notice City of Hartford, Department of Development Services, Housing Division Agency Plan

In compliance with section 511. of the
Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act
of 1998 the City of Hartford Department of
Development Services Housing Division
announces the availability of the preliminary
draft of the PHA Annual Plan for July 1,
2022. Information relating to the plan is
available for review and inspection at the
City of Hartford Department of Development
Services Housing Division office located at
260 Constitution Plaza, 1st fl., Hartford, CT
06103 or the Hartford Public Library (Main
Office) 500 Main Street Hartford, CT 06103
or at 635 Farmington Avenue, Hartford CT
06105 Monday through Friday during normal
business hours. You may also access
this information anytime through internet
connection on the City of Hartford website
address by typing www.hartfordct.gov. Your
comments or suggestions may be mailed to
City of Hartford, Department of Development
Services Housing Division, Attn. Brian
Mathews, c/o PHA Five-Year and Annual Plan,
260 Constitution Plaza, 1st fl., Hartford, CT
06103 and will be considered before the
final plan is completed. A public hearing is
scheduled for April 11, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.
at 260 Constitution Plaza, 1st fl, Department
of Services large Conference Room, Hartford,
CT 06103.
2/25/2022 7157122

LEGAL NOTICE CHESTER PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Notice is hereby given that the Chester
Planning & Zoning Commission will hold
public hearings with virtual participation
available on the town website on Thursday,
March 10, at 7:00 PM at the Chester Town
Hall, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester,
Connecticut to hear the following:
Application for Amendment to a Special
Exception Permit for Exterior and Interior
Building modifications, 45 and 47 Main
Street. Applicant

OBITUARIES BY TOWN

Avon

Beverly R. Rydberg

Bristol

Alfred R. Kirschner

Ellington

Janice Smith

Enfield

Therese Faucher

Christine Jasminski

Farmington

Constance W. Mason

New Britain

Beverly R. Rydberg

Other Towns in CT

Lottie Knybel

Donald J. Sylvester

Simsbury

Christine Jasminski

Vernon


Lottie Knybel

* Denotes name listing only.


Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES

Kirschner, Alfred Richard



Alfred Richard “Dick” Kirschner, 97, of Bristol, widower of Ann “Betty” Kirschner and Bernice Shelberg, died peacefully at home on Wednesday (February 16, 2022). Dick was born on October 2, 1924 in New York City and was a son of the late Gerhardt and Clara (Gurau) Kirschner. He moved with his family to Bristol at an early age, graduating from Bristol High School in 1942. He had many fond memories of his trips to NYC visiting his grand parents, seeing movies and going to New York Yankee baseball games. In his early teen years, he became active as a Boy Scout where he earned the Eagle Scout Award. He continued to be active in the Boy Scouts as an adult, serving several roles including Scout Master. Dick married the love of his life, Ann “Betty” Seeds in 1948. They enjoyed 53 years of marriage until the passing of Betty. While attending a grief support group, he met and subsequently married the second love of his life, Bernice Shelberg. Dick worked for the Bristol Post Office as a letter carrier, where his true passion was being an active union member and leader. His union leadership roles included serving as Chief Steward, President of the Local and State Secretary and included lobbying elected leaders in Washington D. C. Dick was an active 32nd Degree Mason and member of the Frederick-Franklin Lodge #14 AF&AM, Plainville. His early years as a Mason was at the former Franklin Lodge #56 on Lake Avenue in Bristol where he served as Worshipful Master. He was also a Shriner and member of the Sphinx Temple in Newington. He was an active member for over 50 years of Asbury United Methodist Church, Forestville, where he served on many boards and committees. A proud family memory is when Dick and Betty traveled with a group of Asbury members to the 1963 Civil Rights March on Washington D.C. Left to mourn his passing are five children: Richard Kirschner and spouse, Nancy of Bonita Springs, FL, Mark Kirschner and spouse, Grace Jaklik of Kensington, Kathleen McFarland of Groton, Kristine Kirschner of Bristol, and John Kirschner of Burlington; three siblings: Robert Kirschner of Florida, Dorothy Carey of East Hartford, and Kenneth Kirschner of Southington; nine grandchildren: Jeff Carlson, Stephanie Kirschner, Matthew Kirschner, Christopher McFarland, Megan Kirschner, Franklin Kirschner, Michael Kirschner, Casey McFarland, and Lauren Kirschner; three great-grandchildren: Will Carlson, Collins and Rhodes McFarland; several nieces and nephews; and former daughters-in-law: Judy Kirschner and Margaret Kirschner. He was predeceased by a sister: Lorraine Erlandson. Alfred Richard Kirschner will be remembered at a memorial service on Saturday (April 30, 2022) at 11 AM at Asbury United Methodist Church, 90 Church Ave., Bristol, CT 06010. Funk Funeral Home, Bristol, is honored to serve the Kirschner family. Please visit Alfred Richard Kirschner’s memorial web-site at www.FunkFuneralHome.com



Funk’s

Since 1865

www.FunkFuneralHome.com

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Knybel, Lottie (Wyzik)



Lottie (Wyzik) Knybel, 93, of Rockville and loving wife of the late, William Walter Knybel went to eternal rest surrounded by her loving family at her bedside. She was born July 23, 1928 in Wilbraham, MA to the late Andrew and Magdalena (Mondry)Wyzik. Lottie was an active member of St. Joseph Church and was very active throughout the years as a member of the Rosary Society and St. Helen’s Society. She was active in church activities such as, Church Bazaars and the church carnival were she dedicated her time. Lottie would love to help the Felician Sisters in many ways especially giving them rides to certain appointments. Lottie was a founding member of the PAV Women Auxiliary and it’s first treasurer in Wilbraham, MA. She was a member and former President of the PNA Lodge 1484 in Indian Orchard, MA. Lottie was employed by Westinghouse in Springfield, MA and then later for Sears in Manchester, CT were she made many friends for over 10 years. Lottie loved to play Bingo and loved her Polish Heritage and Polish Music and loved to dance in many contest and won with her husband. She is survived by her two loving and caring children, Beverly Knybel and -Michael Knybel and his girlfriend, Carrie Brooks. She is also survived by her niece, Patricia LaBuda and her husband, Daniel and their son, Danny. She is also survived by several nieces, nephews and cousins. Lottie was predeceased by her parents, Andrew and Magdalena Wyzik; her sister, “Toni” Sakowski; her brother, Adam Wyzik and his wife, Jane. Relatives and friends are welcome to join the family from 3-7 p.m. on Sun. Feb 27, 2022 at the Burke-Fortin Funeral Home, 76 Prospect Street, Rockville, CT. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 9:30 a.m. Mon., Feb. 28, 2022 at St. Joseph Church, 33 West Street, Rockville, CT. Burial will follow at St. Bernard’s Cemetery in Rockville, CT. The family would like to express to Dr. Richard Orris for the great care he provided to Lottie. They would also like to thank all Vernon Visiting Nurses and Hospice for all they did for Lottie. A Special thank you to her last aide, Gillian for her loving care and help. Memorial contributions can be made to St. Joseph Church (General Fund) 33 West Street, Rockville, CT 06066 or to Hockanum Valley Food Pantry 27 Naek Rd Suite #4, Vernon, CT 06066 For online condolences or directions please visit: www.pietrasfuneralhome.com

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Every life story
deserves to be told.

Share your loved one’s story at
placeanad.courant.com/obituaries

Hartford Courant

media group

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Faucher, Therese



Therese M. (Pare) Faucher, 89, of Enfield, beloved wife of 50 years to the late Norman Faucher, entered into eternal rest on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at the Suffield House. Born in Hartford on March 4, 1932, she was the daughter of the late William Pare and Yvonne (Ouellette) Pare Therien and her husband Paul Therien. Therese was a devoted wife and mother and family was everything to her. She was the family historian and matriarch throughout her life, and many of the family vacations were focused on visiting with relatives including visiting her extended Orozco family in Las Cruces, NM. Therese had a gift for creating cakes for family events, including elaborate wedding cakes. In her earlier years Therese enjoyed trips to the casino, bowling and supporting the VFW alongside her husband. She faithfully attended her weekly Thursday card games with friends for over 50 years. Therese was an avid fan of the UCONN Huskies. She was also a parishioner of St. Martha church for many years. Therese is survived by her daughters, Karen Roy and her husband Robert of Enfield, Yvonne Faucher of Springfield, MA, Susan Faucher of Enfield, and Denise Orozco and her husband Roger of Las Cruces, NM. She also leaves behind her cherished grandchildren, Erin (Chris), Ryan (Fred), Nicole (Clay), Christopher, Joshua, Juan, Samuel, Marissa, and Rogelio; great grandchildren, Nicholas, Dakota, Skyler, Alyssa, Dominick, Harper, Cullen, and Abigail; her sister-in-law, Barbara Pare, her dearest friends, Millie Zavatsky, Anita Rancourt, and many nieces and nephews. In addition to her late husband Norman, she was predeceased by her brothers, Raymond and Arthur Pare. Therese’s family will receive relatives and friends from 4 to 7 pm on Sunday, February 27, 2022 at Leete-Stevens Enfield Chapels, 61 South Rd, Enfield. A procession will gather at the funeral home at 9 am on Monday, February 28, 2022 for a Mass of Christian Burial to be celebrated at 10 am at St. Martha Church, 214 Brainard Rd, Enfield. Burial will follow in St. Bernard’s Cemetery. Donations in Therese’s memory may be made to Enfield People for People (The Warming Center), 41 Brainard Rd, Enfield, CT 06082. For online condolences, please visit www.leetestevens.com.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Jasminski, Christine (Campbell)



Christine Jasminski, 92, of Enfield, died Saturday, February 19, 2022 at her home. Christine Jasminski was born on October 12, 1929 in Enfield, CT, the daughter of Andrew and Annie Campbell. She married August Jasminski on November 11, 1950. He predeceased her on October 28, 1998. Christine graduated from Enfield High School in 1947 and began work with the State Employment service. She worked at Bigelow Sanford, Pratt & Whitney, then ended her career at Fiskars while simultaneously performing partner office functions for State Line Construction. She spent her retirement working part time until her early eighties while actively managed commercial real estate until her passing. She enjoyed sailing, gardening, knitting and embroidery. She was an industrious, fiercely independent, hardworking woman. Mrs. Jasminski is survived by her loving daughter, Paula Jasminski, and three sons: August (Gus) Jasminski, Jr. and wife Donna, Daniel (Dan) Jasminski and wife Joyce, and Michael Jasminski and wife Mary. She deeply loved her seven grandchildren: Robert (Rob) Mackenzie, Lauren Babchuck (Sam), Grace Mathiason (Christopher), Alexandra Jasminski (Patrick), Amanda Jasminski (Amanda M), Richard Jasminski (Chey), and Andrew Jasminski (Emilee). She leaves four beloved great-grandchildren: Oliver, Hazel, Amelia and Remington. Christine was a wonderful mother and grandmother and loved her children and grandchildren more than anything. She enjoyed many international travels with family and friends, but especially enjoyed her adventurous trips with her grandchildren. She will be greatly missed. She is survived by her cherished sister Joan Summers and husband John of Vernon, CT, and was predeceased by her brothers: Gordon Campbell, Andrew (Clare) Campbell, Donald Campbell, and Collin Campbell. She recently enjoyed a family reunion with many nieces and nephews and was happy to share her family history. Calling hours will be held from 4p.m. to 7p.m. on Friday, February 25, 2022 at Browne Memorial Chapels, 48 Shaker Rd., Enfield Ct 06082. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 26, 2022 at St. Martha’s Church, Enfield, Ct. Interment will follow at Enfield Street cemetery. Please visit www.brownefuneralchapel.com for photos, tributes, directions, and more service information. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Village for Family and Children or to Foodshare.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Smith, Janice "Jan" (Driscoll)



Janice “Jan” (Driscoll) Smith, of Ellington, beloved wife of 43 years to the late Thomas J. Smith (2009), passed away at her home on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 with her family at her side. Born in Boston, Massachusetts, the daughter of the late John and Rita (Walsh) Driscoll, she grew up in Roslindale, Massachusetts and lived in Waukegan, Illinois and Windsor before moving to Ellington in 1978. Jan has fond memories of Cape Cod, where she spent summers with her family and vacationed as often as she could. Prior to her retirement in 2018, Jan was employed at the Rockville Public Library for 38 years. She was a communicant of All Saints Church in Somers. Jan loved cats, watching game shows and was an avid reader. She was a loving and devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend who enjoyed spending time with her family and friends. She is survived by her children, Tom Smith and his wife Tina of Wethersfield, Michael Smith of Ellington, Patricia McCarthy and her husband Todd of Somers, and Jim Smith of Ellington; four grandchildren, Molly and Emily Smith, and William and Teagan McCarthy; three sisters, Jackie Lindsay and her husband Thomas, Jean Carlo and Joan Harninger, and several nieces and nephews. She was also predeceased by her sister Joyce Thomas. Her family will receive friends for calling hours at the Ladd-Turkington & Carmon Funeral Home, 551 Talcottville Road (Route 83), Vernon on Monday, February 28, 2022 from 9 to 10:15 a.m. followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. at All Saints Church, 25 School Street, Somers. Burial will follow in St. Bernard Cemetery, Rockville. Memorial donations in Jan’s name may be made to the Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Road, Newington, CT 06111. For online condolences and guest book, please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries



CARMON

Community Funeral Homes

Mason, Constance Wolcott



Constance Wolcott Mason, 83, passed away peacefully at her residence at 1 Bridgewater Road in Farmington on February 23, 2022. She was born in Hartford, Connecticut to the late Edward Sholto Wolcott and Ruth Westerberg Wolcott. Connie was the loving wife of the late George Henry Mason for 60 years. She and George were longtime residents of Farmington, Connecticut and St. Helena Island, South Carolina. Connie grew up in Wethersfield, Connecticut. Her family has deep roots in Connecticut history with three Connecticut Governors, Roger Wolcott, Oliver Wolcott, Sr. who was a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and Oliver Wolcott, Jr. who was appointed US Secretary of the Treasury by President George Washington. Connie graduated in 1958 from Lasell College (now Lasell University) in Newton, Massachusetts. After college, Connie worked at The Travelers in Hartford as an executive assistant. It was while working at The Travelers that she met and married the love of her life, George Henry Mason. Connie and George traveled extensively throughout the world including China where George was a visiting professor. They also greatly enjoyed the time they spent at their home in Dataw, South Carolina playing golf with their many friends. Connie loved traveling, classical music, theater, nature, gardening, and reading. She was a member of the First Church of Christ, Congregational in Farmington where she enjoyed volunteering her time. Connie leaves her sisters Sarah Wolcott Twaddle of Columbia, Missouri and Dorothy Wolcott Stockman and her husband, Allan Stockman, of Tucson, Arizona; along with nieces Lisa Wolcott Durante of Gainesville, Florida and Kristin Wolcott Farese of Kentfield, California and nephews Nathan Wolcott Stockman of Portland, Oregon and Adam Robbins Stockman of Portland, Oregon. She also leaves her brother-in-law William Randolph Mason of London, England. A graveside service will take place at Riverside Cemetery in Farmington on Monday, February 28th at 2:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the George H. and Constance Wolcott Mason Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. Arrangements are being handled by The Ahern Funeral Home, www.ahernfuneralhome.com.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Rydberg, Beverly R. Layman



POSTPONEMENT OF SERVICES DUE TO WEATHER CONDITIONS FRIDAY

The Funeral for Beverly R. (Layman) Rydberg, 81, of Avon beloved wife of Barry H. Rydberg, who passed away Wednesday, February 16, 2022 WILL NOW BE HELD MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2022, 11 AM AT SAINT MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH, 224 LOVELY STREET, AVON. A RECEPTION WILL FOLLOW THE SERVICE IN THE CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL. Burial will be private in West Avon Cemetery. Contributions in lieu of flowers may be made to either The Village for Families & Children, 1680 Albany Ave, Hartford, CT 06105 or Dog Star Rescue, PO Box 721, Canton, CT 06019. The Carmon Funeral Home & Family Center of Avon is caring for the arrangements. For directions or condolences please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com.



CARMON

Community Funeral Homes

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Sylvester, Donald Joseph



Donald Joseph Sylvester, 82, of Willimantic, CT, passed away on February 22nd, 2022. Donald was born in Manchester, CT, to Joseph John Sylvester and Ann Theodora (Sapienza) Sylvester, on October 1st, 1939. He went to high school at Manchester High School and graduated in 1957. He attended Monson Academy and served in the United States Navy. His many interests included politics, history, sports, movies and television, country music, book collecting and most of all, spending time with his family. Donald is survived by his wife Frances Kaye (Grubb) Sylvester, son Anthony Sylvester, daughter Melanie and her spouse Theodore Morrisette, and son Joseph Sylvester; grandchildren Lisa and Thomas Novack; two brothers Richard and his late wife Sharon Sylvester, Peter and spouse Paula Sylvester; Brenden and Riley Morrisette and many more nieces, nephews, cousins, and in-laws. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 am on March 1st at St. James Church, 896 Main Street, Manchester, CT. Burial to follow at St. James Cemetery, 368 Broad Street. Visitation will be held at the John F. Tierney Funeral Home, 219 West Center Street, Manchester, CT, on Monday, February 28th from 4:00 to 8:00 pm. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to The Veterans Administration. For online condolences, please visit www.tierneyfuneralhome.com.

JOHN F.



TIERNEYFUNERALHOME.COM

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory Of
BERNARD A DEVITO



Who Passed Away Feb 25, 1992

As time goes by without you and the days turned into 30 years ~ They hold a million memories and a thousand silent tears

To us you were a special husband, father, policeman, veteran and teacher ~ What more is there to say

Except we wish with all our hearts ~ That you were here today

With Love Always & Missing You Forever,
Your Loving Family

Stories live on. Tell theirs.

Share your loved one’s story.
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Hartford HealthCare fights lawsuit

Motion to dismiss comes after claims from Saint Francis Hospital alleging violation of antitrust laws

By Dave Altimari
CT Mirror

Hartford HealthCare is seeking to have a federal judge dismiss the landmark antitrust lawsuit filed by Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, arguing that its competitor has chosen not to engage in fair competition despite being the much larger hospital chain.

In its motion to dismiss, its first substantive response to a federal lawsuit alleging it is violating antitrust laws, Hartford HealthCare acknowledges it has hired away doctors from its competitor, a central claim of the lawsuit. But, it claims Saint Francis' remedy should be to use its massive financial advantage to keep its physicians, instead of trying

to stifle competition.

"Hartford HealthCare and other competing systems in Connecticut have indeed successfully competed to recruit some physicians to their systems who formerly practiced at St. Francis. That leaves St. Francis with a choice. One option is to compete harder to recruit and retain physicians," the motion states.

"There is no reason it could not do so, particularly given its massive financial resources — it has higher operating margins than Hartford HealthCare, and is owned by industry giant Trinity Health, a system that includes about 90 other hospitals."

But rather than compete, Saint Francis chose to file the antitrust lawsuit and not

only "chill" its main competitor but also deny physicians the right to seek better employment, whether it be with Hartford HealthCare or some other hospital, it says.

"St. Francis's injuries do not derive from a reduction in competition; they arise from competition itself. The injuries about which St. Francis complains — alleged reduced opportunities for physician referrals to St. Francis — would be the same if St. Francis had lost those physicians to any other hospital in the area, such as Yale New Haven Hospital, Manchester Memorial Hospital, Bristol Hospital, or UConn," the motion states.

"We are aware Hartford Healthcare has filed a response to our complaint," said

Kaitlin Rocheleau, Saint Francis Hospital's spokesperson. "We strongly disagree with Hartford HealthCare's position and remain committed to protecting our patients, physicians and the community. Our ultimate goal remains that the residents of the Greater Hartford area have access to health care that is high in quality with lower costs."

Hartford HealthCare spokesperson Tina Varona released a statement as well.

"St. Francis, which is one of almost 90 hospitals across the nation run by Michigan-based Trinity Health, is bringing this suit not because of a reduction in competition, but because of competition itself — the

Turn to Lawsuit, Page 2

GLORIA GERENA 1937-2022

Icon in movement, mother of fugitive

Hartford activist for Puerto Rican independence dies

By Edmund H. Mahony
Hartford Courant

Gloria Gerena, a Hartford activist and mother of fugitive Victor Gerena, inside man for the Puerto Rican militants who stole \$7 million from a West Hartford armored car depot nearly four decades ago, has died.

She was 84.

Gerena worked to expand the political influence of the state's Hispanic population and was an icon in the Puerto Rican independence movement in the years after her son joined the violent nationalist group Los Macheteros in what was then the largest cash robbery in the U.S. — the proceeds of which Los Macheteros said they stole to finance an armed revolution on the island.

For 45 years, Gerena worked for Catholic Family Charities-Institute for Hispanic Families, where she helped create sign language programs for deaf children and

Turn to Gerena, Page 2



Gloria Gerena, the mother of Victor Gerena, chants with other protesters on Main Street in Hartford in 1999. **COURANT FILE PHOTO**

CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

Metrics are leveling off, expert says

By Alex Putterman
Hartford Courant

Connecticut's COVID-19 numbers continued to improve over the past week, state numbers show, though not as rapidly as earlier this month.

The state reported 3,890 COVID-19 cases over the past seven days, down about 28% from the week before. During the same period, Connecticut's coronavirus hospitalizations are down about 24%.

"It's all coming down pretty nicely," Dr. Ulysses Wu, chief epidemiologist at Hartford HealthCare, said Thursday. "The only thing I would take caution with is we seemed to have leveled off a little bit. The rate of decline has really dropped."

After peaking in mid-January, Connecticut's COVID-19 numbers improved dramatically in late January and much of February, returning to pre-Thanksgiving levels. Over the last several weeks cases and hospitalizations have declined at a steady but more gradual speed.

Meanwhile, the state continues to

Turn to Virus, Page 2



After nearly 60 years, the Long Wharf Theatre, a regional nonprofit on New Haven's waterfront, is ending a long, bumpy chapter there, hoping to expand access and reduce costs. **THE NEW YORK TIMES 2018**

Long Wharf Theatre turning to community

Company will leave building to perform shows all around New Haven

By Susan Dunne | Hartford Courant

The Long Wharf Theatre in New Haven will vacate its building at 222 Sargent Drive, which it has occupied for 57 years, the theater announced this week.

In a move to become a company "of, for and by the community," Long Wharf will stage shows in various venues all around the city starting in fall 2023.

The theater company's long-term lease expires in June. Theater leadership and the board have decided not to pursue another long-term lease, artistic director Jacob G. Padrón said.

Padrón said a short-term extension on the lease is being pursued to make it easier for the theater staff to move out. If that extension is approved, some shows, workshops and readings may be held in the Sargent Drive theater between summer



Padrón

2022 and summer 2023, he said.

During that year the theater company will go into the community to get ideas about where shows can be performed and what sort of shows people want to see. Padrón said that creators of future shows will be allowed to choose where their shows are performed from the array of community venues.

"Long Wharf Theatre is a place that produces great art," Padrón said. "We will remain committed to producing new plays, classics, musicals. That's our history and we will continue to build on that history."

"We want to be theater company of, for and by the community. If we are not anchored to a space, a single venue, it will allow us to manifest that."

Board Chairwoman Nancy Alexander said the decision to let

Turn to Theater, Page 2

"We want to be theater company of, for and by the community. If we are not anchored to a space, a single venue, it will allow us to manifest that."

— Jacob G. Padrón, Long Wharf Theatre artistic director

Housing halt eyed for South Windsor

Planners divided over 'pause' on apartments, subdivisions

By Don Stacom
Hartford Courant

Amidst a wave of new residential development hitting central Connecticut, South Windsor is talking about putting on the brakes with a moratorium.

Planners in the town so far are divided about whether a temporary halt to new housing would be good or bad, though, and won't be deciding the matter until next month at the soonest.

A half-year or full-year ban on new housing applications would give planners time to update South Windsor's regulations on affordable housing, open space and other concerns that aren't sufficiently addressed

now, advocates said.

Some also support the moratorium as a way to ease the strain on South Windsor's schools, where enrollment is rising steadily. The goal is to head off any influx of additional children that would come with new houses and apartments, at least for the year while a larger Pleasant Valley School is under construction.

But several residents along with a few members of the Planning and Zoning Commission are concerned that the moratorium would risk long-term growth for the town. They also question whether a ban on new housing is the right way to address school crowding.

"Some of the consequences I see — it could discourage future development" and possibly discourage families from moving to town, Commissioner Alan Cavagnaro told his colleagues at a recent meeting.

"I fear a moratorium will have an adverse

impact. We'll develop a reputation for being hostile to development," Commissioner Stephen Wagner replied. "I plan to vote against this."

But Commissioner Mike LeBlanc offered a different view: South Windsor's zoning regulations are outdated, and planners need to devote time in the next year to bring them up to date so they can guide any future growth, he said.

"I hate to say it but some sections look weak to me — these regulations we have really need to be brought to today. A lot of time has passed since this was written," LeBlanc said.

In a written report to his colleagues, Chairman Bart Pacekonis said too many projects are being approved with "cookie cutter open space cluster designs;

Turn to Housing, Page 2

CONNECTICUT

Gerena

from Page 1

their families, as well as developing forensic techniques to interview sexually abused children.

She was born in Santurce, Puerto Rico, and lived briefly in the Bronx before moving to Hartford where she raised five children. While in Hartford, she became a licensed social worker, obtaining undergraduate degrees from Manchester Community College and St. Joseph's in West Hartford, and a master's degree from UConn.

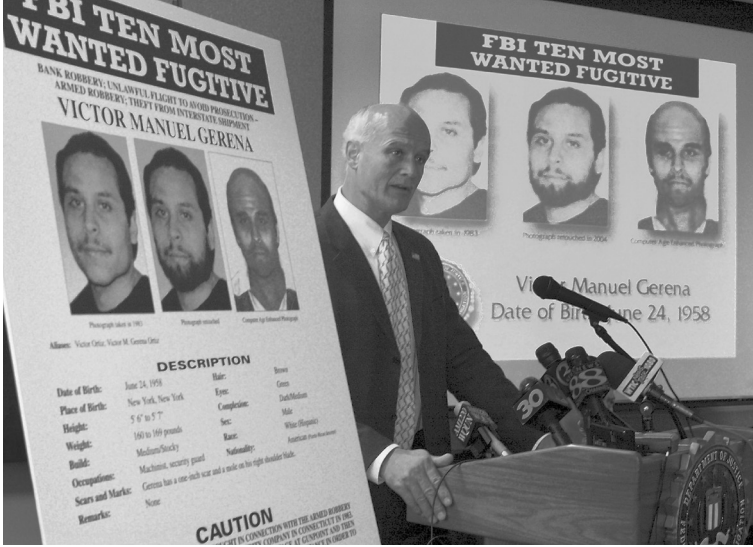
When Gerena moved to Hartford, she settled in what during the late 1960s and '70s was one of the largest and most important centers of Puerto Rican culture on the mainland and a hotbed of activism for Puerto Rican independence. It has long been the belief of federal investigators that it was his mother's influence that persuaded Victor to, at least symbolically, give his life for the independence movement.

The FBI case file on the robbery reads like a Caribbean thriller. Macheteros met secretly with senior Cuban intelligence offi-

cers — who trained, financed and protected the robbers — at safehouses in Panama, Mexico and Cuba. Money was smuggled via Cuba's "diplomatic pouch." The Macheteros blasted federal government buildings with Cuban-supplied rockets that the U.S. had left behind in Vietnam. The militants smuggled Victor Gerena into Mexico and handed him to the Cubans, who gave him a dye job and a phony beard and flew him to Havana, where he joined a group of radical U.S. fugitives living under the protection of former Cuban President Fidel Castro. He is still at large.

Gloria Gerena spoke of the Wells Fargo robbery and her son three years ago to Puerto Rican filmmaker Freddy Marrero Alfonso, whose documentary "Filiberto" profiles Filiberto Ojeda Rios, the Puerto Rican nationalist who, with Cuban support, established the violent wing of the island independence movement in the 1960s.

Ojeda, who helped plan the Wells Fargo robbery and approved the participation of Victor Gerena, was a star athlete and student at Hartford's Bulkeley High School. Victor Gerena got a job driving an



FBI Special Agent Mike Wolf held a news conference in 2004 in New Haven to announce the new \$1 million reward for the capture of Victor Gerena for his alleged participation in a \$7 million theft from a West Hartford armored car terminal. **COURANT FILE PHOTO**

armored vehicle for Wells Fargo and, on Sept. 12, 1983, pulled a gun on two fellow employees, stuffed all the cash he could fit into a rented Buick, and drove off into the night.

Ojeda and the other robbery conspirators — all but Victor Gerena — were caught and tried

in the federal courthouse on Main Street in Hartford, where Gloria Gerena frequently participated in protests. Ojeda escaped and lived quietly as a fugitive in the Puerto Rican mountains until he was killed in a gunfight with FBI agents on Sept. 23, 2005.

In "Filiberto," Gloria Gerena is interviewed on a rainy day in Frog Hollow, sitting in a sedan across the street from the brownstone where Ojeda and his lawyer lived during the trial. Gloria Gerena explains away the robbery as a legitimate act of war. And she tries to explain the absence from her life of her oldest son.

"Once it was understood that it was for a cause, many of us would say, and still say, 'It's an expropriation,'" Gloria Gerena said of the robbery. "Because that is what it is called, when you take away from the rich. Because if you say robbery, you're criminalizing the struggle."

Of Victor, she said: "I can't say that I've paid more than anyone. But I do believe that with him being gone and his daughters growing up without him ... not getting to know his grandchildren, his nephew and not being able to see each other ... that's been tough."

Gerena died on Feb. 16. Funeral services are at 11 a.m. Friday at the D'Esopo-East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter St., East Hartford. Burial will follow in Silver Lane Cemetery, East Hartford.

Virus

from Page 1

record notable levels of COVID-19 deaths, including 119 over the past week.

Still, Wu said the broader trends remain encouraging.

"I think we can certainly start returning back to normal on a lot of things, for sure," he said.

In a sign that COVID-19 remains present in Connecticut, UConn reported 70 additional COVID-19 cases this week on its Storrs campus, where the number of recorded cases has increased since earlier this month. Stephanie Reitz, a UConn spokesperson, said Wednesday that there do not seem to be any particular clusters, such as the ones that shut down dormitories at times last year.

"The cases have been spread across various parts of campus, and there are no clusters or significant single-source outbreaks," she said.

Cases and positivity rate: Connecticut has reported 3,890 cases out of 112,995 tests over the past week, for a positivity rate of 3.44% — the lowest during any seven-day period since late November.

Connecticut's average of 556 daily over the past week is down from more than 10,000 at one point last month but still higher than where it stood before the state's fall surge began. Unvaccinated residents have been about three times as likely to test positive in recent weeks as vaccinated residents, according to state numbers.

As of Thursday, 87 of Connecticut's 169 municipalities remain in the state's "red alert" category, meaning they have averaged at least 15 daily cases per 100,000 residents over the past week.

Seven of Connecticut's eight counties — all but Fairfield — are still recording "high" levels of COVID-19 transmission as defined by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. With this level of transmission, the CDC

advises people to wear a mask in public indoor settings.

Hospitalizations: As of Thursday, Connecticut had 248 patients hospitalized with COVID-19, down from 325 a week prior and the fewest at a time since Nov. 19.

Many of those patients, Wu said, are "incidental" cases, meaning they were admitted for non-coronavirus reasons before testing positive upon arrival.

According to the state, 51.2% of people hospitalized with COVID-19 are unvaccinated. Hospital officials say the rate is significantly higher when considering only patients with severe symptoms.

Deaths: Connecticut reported 119 deaths over the past week on Thursday, bringing its total during the pandemic to 10,443.

That total represented a slight uptick from the 105 the state announced the week prior. COVID-19 deaths, which typically tend to lag other metrics by several weeks, have dipped recently after

increasing in December and January.

The United States has now recorded 942,985 COVID-19 deaths, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

Vaccinations: As of Thursday, 93.8% of all Connecticut residents and 95% of those 5 and older had received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, while 77.8% of all residents and 81.8% of those 5 and older were fully vaccinated, according to the CDC.

Additionally, about 53.2% of fully vaccinated Connecticut residents 18 or older have received a booster dose.

The CDC warns that booster shots are sometimes misclassified as first doses, likely inflating the reported number of first-dose coverage and understating the true number of people who have received boosters.

Alex Putterman can be reached at aputterman@courant.com.

Housing

from Page 1

minimum lot frontages, sizes and usability of lots; undesirable open space; loss of habitats" and other shortcomings. Taking months — or a year — to update the rules would help the town in the long term, he said.

Temporarily barring developers from proposing new projects would give the commission time to study recent development patterns and find better ways of carving out green space in large developments, according to supporters. It would also allow time to research new state legislation on affordable housing to position South Windsor to meet future requirements, they said.

Opponents dismissed that idea, saying commissioners could simply hold special meetings — or longer meetings — to do that type of planning after dealing with routine applications.

"We've now wasted two public hearings" arguing the moratorium instead of discussing rules on open space, interior lots and affordable housing," Wagner said.

Councilman Andrew Paterna warned that a moratorium could discourage developers, leading to less new construction and smaller grand list growth. That would mean existing taxpayers would have to share more of future tax burdens, he said.

Cavagnaro also said commissioners shouldn't be trying to resolve the school enrollment issue.

"Some commissioners have noted our schools are too crowded. It's not our purview to decide this moratorium based on class sizes," Cavagnaro said. "While it is a concern, we cannot let that impact our decision."

South Windsor's school population has grown steadily in recent years. Enrollment currently stands at 4,778 students, about 220 more than last year and nearly 600 more than five years ago. This month, the Board of Education approved \$800,000 in the next budget to hire more faculty and improve the high school annex to deal with growth.

The town is spending more than \$58 million to replace the Pleasant Valley Elementary School with a larger building. If construction is on schedule, it will open in August 2023.

The Planning and Zoning Commission will resume deliberations on the moratorium in March.

Theater

from Page 1

the building go and become an itinerant theater was not pandemic- or rent-related so much as it is a reflection of changing audience trends that go back many years.

"The overall financial model has not been working for Long Wharf," she said. "The financial model that has worked for regional theaters for a long time was dependent on [a] very large number of subscribers.

"Subscribers around the country have been dropping. Theaters have been more reliant on contributed income rather than ticket income."

An operation on the scale of Long Wharf Theater, in its large physical space, is no longer financially sustainable, Alexander said.

"We're just being realistic," she said.

Padrón said the theater is financially stable.

"We are on a solid footing, but like most theaters we have to really think about our resources and be thoughtful stewards of our resources," he said.

Alexander added that the theater increasingly competes with streaming entertainment for viewers' attention. She also cited an overall decrease in the amount of free time in people's lives.

"People are stretched, even before the pandemic, in ways that are different from any time in the past," she said.

Both Padrón and Alexander acknowledge that the theater's location, in a largely industrial area hard by I-95, was often a stumbling block to community involvement.

"Unless you know where to



The Long Wharf Theatre's most recent show — Anna Deavere Smith's "Fires in the Mirror" with Cloteal L. Horne — closed Feb. 6. The theater has announced it will vacate its building in New Haven after 57 years. **COURTESY**

find us, you're not going to stumble upon us walking downtown," Padrón said. "Sometimes it's hard to find, especially if you don't have a car."

Both Padrón and Alexander are excited about bringing shows into the communities. Alexander compared the itinerant model to last summer's "Play on My Block" project, which presented the play "Passing Strange" in two city parks.

"It felt completely different out in the open," she said. "The folks who attended were people we had never seen inside the Long Wharf Theatre.

"It was thrilling. It was so fun. Also, it was a meaningfully chosen piece," an African-American rock musical.

Padrón said the theater company may set up a campus in the future, "but we don't want to do that without the community's input. That will help to inform us what the path is."

Alexander acknowledged that letting go of the building, where many older patrons have fond memories, may alienate those patrons.

"I worry about that," she said. "It's up to us to win them back."

Adriane Jefferson, director of the Department of Arts and Cultural Affairs for the city of New Haven, said she hopes Long Wharf's new model "will allow the concept of theater to reach new, previously underserved audiences in New Haven and beyond.

"What Long Wharf Theatre is doing dovetails perfectly with the city of New Haven's recently launched cultural equity plan, which centers anti-racist efforts to reach communities that have been historically underserved by our city's rich cultural offerings," Jefferson said.

"Long Wharf's new vision will be a big part in helping this plan succeed and ensuring all of New Haven is able to thrive."

Long Wharf will finish its 2021-2022 season before making the transition.

"Dream Hou\$e," Eliana Pipes' story about two sisters dealing with gentrification, will run March 15 to April 3. "Queen," Madhuri Shekar's drama about two friends facing a dilemma in their scientific research, will run May 17 to June 5.

Long Wharf will hold community forums to discuss what New Haven residents want to see from Long Wharf in the future.

The forums that already have been scheduled will be from 7 to 8 p.m. on March 9 and 24 (both virtual) and April 7 at the theater's Sargent Drive location, and from 2 to 3 p.m. on April 2 at the New Haven Free Public Library's Mitchell Branch, 37 Harrison St.

Details on the virtual events and future forums can be found at longwharf.org.

Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com.

Lawsuit

from Page 1

kind of competition and innovation that benefits patients and that antitrust laws are designed to protect," Varona said. "Further, St. Francis is attempting to interfere with where physicians may choose to do their work. St. Francis's suit has no merit and distorts the many ways Hartford HealthCare serves the community."

The motion was filed late Wednesday night in U.S. District Court. It is a routine legal maneuver by a defendant in a lawsuit. Saint Francis will have 21 days to respond to the motion to dismiss, and then Hartford HealthCare will have a chance to file a rebuttal claim.

The case has been assigned to Senior U.S. District Judge Alfred V. Covello, who could decide to hold a

court hearing on the motion or rule on the legal arguments from both sides. Defendants typically have a high bar to prove that a case should be dismissed with no evidence being collected.

The 75-page lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in New Haven in January alleges "a campaign of exclusion, acquisition and intimidation" and claims that Hartford HealthCare executives have stated in meetings that their plan was to "crush" or "bury" Saint Francis.

The lawsuit claims that Hartford HealthCare, as it has acquired physician practices over the last four years, has threatened and intimidated physicians who don't comply with its "dictates."

The lawsuit sheds light on many issues that normally remain behind closed doors but could be aired in a courtroom as the two giants fight a legal battle that could affect the delivery of health care in the Hart-

ford region for years to come.

Saint Francis is seeking financial damages, a court order to divest any physician practices that Hartford HealthCare has purchased since 2020 and a permanent injunction prohibiting what it describes as "anticompetitive conduct."

Hartford HealthCare officials have said publicly only that they would fight the lawsuit and that it was without merit.

The lawsuit names 21 physicians whose practices were acquired by Hartford HealthCare over the last four years and nine others who became exclusively affiliated with Hartford HealthCare's network, known as Integrated Care Partners, or ICP.

Among them is Ulysses Wu, an infectious disease specialist who has spoken to media including CT Mirror about the COVID pandemic. Saint Francis also lost

Muzibul Chowdhury, a cardiologist, to Hartford HealthCare, the lawsuit states.

"Dr. Chowdhury admitted the most cardiology cases at Saint Francis prior to his acquisition," the lawsuit states. "Many of these losses are especially harmful to Saint Francis, and to competition, disproportionate to the numbers of physicians lost."

"Hartford HealthCare's acquisition of the physician practices of cardiologists is especially harmful to Saint Francis and Hartford HealthCare's other hospital competitors. That is because cardiac and cardiac surgery cases are among the most profitable cases for hospitals, and therefore the loss of such cases is especially harmful."

The motion to dismiss also argues that Saint Francis has failed to allege sufficient facts to sustain its allegations that it was fore-

closed from a relevant market, or that Hartford HealthCare's other alleged conduct constitutes an antitrust violation.

"A party claiming foreclosure must adequately define the relevant market, and plead facts indicating that it has been substantially foreclosed from that market. But instead of defining a market based on the range of competitive opportunities available to it, St. Francis instead attempts to define markets limited solely to a subset of patients — those enrolled in plans offered by 'commercial insurers,'" the motion states.

"St. Francis does not adequately allege why other types of patients, i.e., those who pay for their care with Medicaid, Medicare Advantage, or traditional Medicare, are not important as well, and why they are not adequate substitutes for commercially insured patients."

CONNECTICUT

New rules for hazardous waste removal

State guidelines sharply limit contracts issued by municipalities

By Dave Altimari
CT Mirror

Just days after state officials canceled a contract that provided more than \$29 million in hazardous waste projects to a select list of four companies, they released new guidelines Wednesday that sharply limit when municipalities can make use of the process for school construction.

Two companies named in a federal grand jury subpoena investigating former state official Konstantinos Diamantis were the primary beneficiaries of that contract before it was canceled, records show.

Diamantis' team was in charge of the contract, which was initially supposed to be limited to emergency work, state officials have said.

The grand jury investigation has

raised questions about whether Diamantis pressured municipalities to hire specific contractors, construction managers and hazardous waste and asbestos removal companies.

The guidance released Wednesday from the state Department of Administrative Services places restrictions on when towns can hire the companies on the state's approved list. They can now only be used for minor rehabilitation projects that cost less than \$500,000 and "emergency projects," defined as work that needs to begin within 24 hours. Demolition projects are explicitly excluded from the contract.

"DAS has clarified with other towns through, for example, conversations, website updates, contract updates and more to ensure towns have accurate information about the school construction grants process," DAS spokeswoman Lora Rae Anderson said.

The original DAS contract, "16PSX0110," was designed to

be an on-call emergency list for towns to use for hazardous waste abatement ranging from asbestos removal to mold remediation in state buildings.

But under Diamantis, the former deputy secretary at the state Office of Policy and Management, many municipalities started using the list to bid for hazardous waste removal and demolition on school construction projects.

Diamantis also ran the Office of School Construction Grants & Review — first at DAS and then at the Office of Police and Management — until late October, when he was fired from his OPM job and retired from the OSCGR position.

Asbestos Abatement and Insulation Services Corporation of West Haven and Bestech Inc. of Ellington got all but 15 of the 284 purchase orders issued by the state for hazardous waste disposal and demolition from fiscal year 2017 through 2022 — contracts that are paid for by the state and not tied to school construction jobs.

Diamantis was in charge of the

roughly 20-member OSCGR team, which approved school construction projects. In October, a federal grand jury issued a subpoena seeking Diamantis' emails and text messages from January 2018 through October 2021.

They later sent DAS a list of search words that included several construction management companies and general contractors who have been awarded school contracts in the last four years. Among the search words were AAIS and Bestech.

Local officials from Tolland to Bristol have said that Diamantis or Michael Sanders, a member of the OSCGR team that specialized in asbestos abatement, pressured them to give contracts to either AAIS or Bestech rather than to companies not on the state list.

Sanders died suddenly in December in Old Saybrook. The state medical examiner has ruled his death an accidental drug overdose.

The new contract, "20psx0154," was put into place after New

Haven attorney Raymond Garcia, on behalf of his client Stamford Wrecking Co., complained to several state officials, including Attorney General William Tong, that Diamantis and his team were improperly using the so-called emergency contract list for school construction jobs.

The discussions among Garcia and state officials, including Diamantis and Assistant Attorney General Margaret Chapple, led to the issuing of a new directive to municipalities on March 2, 2021.

The directive, signed by Diamantis, clarified when municipalities should use the state's hazardous materials abatement contractors list for their school projects.

The directive states that if municipalities planned to use one of the companies on the so-called emergency contractor list, they needed to solicit a minimum of four bid proposals in order to be eligible to get state funding.

Anderson said the new guidance issued Wednesday replaces that directive.

HARTFORD

Car stolen with 6-year-old inside

Hartford police on Thursday were looking for a thief who stole a car with a 6-year-old girl inside.

The child was found safe and uninjured early Wednesday afternoon after the thief let her out of the car, police said.

The incident happened at about 12:45 p.m. when a man approached a city police officer who was on a private duty job in the area of 686 Park St. The man said his vehicle had just been stolen with his daughter inside, police said.

The father was able to reach his daughter by cellphone while speaking to the officer, police said. Moments later, she was found in the area of 911 Park St., where the thief had let her out, police said.

Police were searching for the suspect and the stolen vehicle, police spokesman Lt. Aaron Boisvert said Thursday afternoon.

— Jesse Leavenworth

Man shot in gas station robbery

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

A man was shot and wounded early Thursday during an attempted robbery at a Manchester gasoline station, police said.

The shooting happened at 427 Hartford Road about 2:05 a.m. Officers found the victim, 54, on the ground in the parking lot of

the Mobil station suffering from a gunshot wound to the hip, police spokesman Lt. Ryan Shea said.

While he was fueling his vehicle, the victim reportedly told officers, a dark-colored sedan pulled into the lot and a person with a gun ran up and demanded money. The victim said he tried to run away and was shot as he ran, Shea said. The suspect drove off in an

unknown direction.

The victim was taken to Hartford Hospital and was listed in stable condition. Anyone with information is asked to call police at 860-645-5500, or the lead investigator, Detective Anthony DeJulius, at 860-645-5545.

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at jleavenworth@courant.com

Cop injured after cruiser gets rear-ended

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

A Wallingford police officer was hurt after the driver of an SUV slammed into the back of his cruiser while the officer was helping the driver of a disabled tractor-trailer, police said.

The crash happened Tuesday at about 9:15 p.m. after Officer Justin Bussell pulled over to help the truck driver on Route 68 near Barnes Road. Bussell had parked

his cruiser behind the tractor-trailer with emergency lights activated, police said.

While Bussell was still inside, the driver of a Ford Expedition hit the cruiser, forcing it off the roadway and into the wood line, police said.

Bussell was temporarily trapped and had to be pulled from the cruiser's rear, driver's-side door, police said. He was taken to Yale New Haven Hospital for treatment. An update on his condition was not immediately available. An occupant

of the Expedition also was treated for injuries, police said.

Weather at the time was windy with moderate rainfall. Police are investigating the crash, but they urged motorists to slow down and obey the state's Move Over law, particularly during bad weather when visibility is reduced and stopping distances increase. The law requires motorists approaching one or more emergency vehicles on the roadside to slow down and move over one lane if possible.

MIDDLETOWN

Police say man abused puppy

Middletown police arrested a man after a video showed him abusing a 14-week-old puppy, police said Thursday.

Charged with animal cruelty and second-degree threatening, Michael Bolton, 28, was held in lieu of \$50,000 bond.

On Wednesday, a woman told police Bolton was threatening to kill the dog if she did not come to his house, police said. She turned over a video to animal control that showed Bolton hitting the female dog on the head and grabbing its throat to force it into the ground, police said.

Confronted at his Stonycrest Drive home by animal control and patrol officers, Bolton denied abusing or threatening to kill the puppy, saying he was disciplining the dog earlier in the day, police said. He was arrested and animal control removed the dog for treatment and to ensure its safety, police said.

— Jesse Leavenworth

South Windsor man conned \$679K out of grandparents, feds say

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

A South Windsor man pretended to be in college so he could scam his grandparents out of \$679,000 that he said was for tuition and an investment fund, federal authorities said.

Douglas Senerth, 32, pleaded guilty Wednesday to fraud in New Haven federal court, officials said.

From 2011-19, Senerth scammed his grandparents by falsely claim-

ing to be a college student and persuading them to give him about \$419,000 for nonexistent tuition and related expenses, authorities said. Senerth also ripped off his grandparents for an additional \$260,000 by falsely claiming he would invest their money into a fund run by one of his nonexistent professors, federal officials said.

As part of the scheme, Senerth created bogus college transcripts, letters and email accounts to corroborate his lies, officials said.

Senerth, who has been detained in state custody since Feb. 10, 2021, on unrelated charges, pleaded guilty in federal court to one count of wire fraud, which carries a maximum term of 20 years in prison, authorities said. Scheduled to be sentenced on May 17, he has agreed to pay restitution of \$679,944, officials said.

This investigation is being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Heather

Cherry.

The Justice Department has established a National Elder Fraud Hotline to provide services to seniors who may be victims of financial fraud. The Hotline, according to a news release, is staffed by experienced case managers who can provide personalized support to callers. Case managers assist callers with reporting the suspected fraud to relevant agencies and by providing resources and referrals to other appropriate

services as needed.

When applicable, case managers will complete a complaint form with the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) for Internet-facilitated crimes and submit a consumer complaint to the Federal Trade Commission on behalf of the caller. The Hotline's toll-free number is 833-FRAUD-11 (833-372-8311).

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at jleavenworth@courant.com

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Anna Michalczuk (22-00135)

The Hon. Michael A. Carrier, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Berlin Probate Court, by decree dated February 18, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Susan I. Meagher, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Andrzej Michalczuk
c/o MONIKA ANNA GRADZKI, THE GRADZKI LAW FIRM, LLC, 17 LENOX PLACE, NEW BRITAIN, CT 06052

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Tadeusz P. Stoj, AKA Tadeusz Stoj (22-00098)

The Hon. Michael A. Carrier, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Berlin Probate Court, by decree dated February 18, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Susan I. Meagher, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Elzbieta Klimaszewski
c/o WANDA L. WISNIOWSKI, WISNIOWSKI & SULLIVAN, LLC, 55 BROAD STREET, SUITE 210, NEW BRITAIN, CT 06053

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
MIDDLETOWN PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
MARCH 9, 2022**

PUBLIC COMMENT MAY BE LIMITED TO FIVE MINUTES. PUBLIC IS ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS PRIOR TO THE PUBLIC HEARING.

Request for special exception to occupy space on the first floor for an office use in an existing building located at 10A Main Street in the B-1 zone. Applicant/agent Foster Charles, Charles IT. SE2022-1

Thomas Pattavina, Chair
Planning and Zoning Commission
2/25, 3/4/2022 7155742

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Michael Darienzo (22-00090)

The Hon. Michael A. Carrier, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Berlin Probate Court, by decree dated February 9, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Susan I. Meagher, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Kaitlyn Darienzo, 59 1st Street, New Britain, CT 06053
2/25/2022 7155623

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF JoAnn Sweykoski (22-00136)

The Hon. Michael A. Carrier, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Berlin Probate Court, by decree dated February 18, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Susan I. Meagher, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Katherine Basinger
c/o WILLIAM GALSKE, ZAGORSKY ZAGORSKY & GALSKE PC, 73 EAST MAIN STREET, P. O. BOX 218, PLAINVILLE, CT 06062

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Anita McGary (22-00026)

The Hon. Michael A. Carrier, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Berlin Probate Court, by decree dated February 8, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Susan I. Meagher, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Michael McGary
c/o CLAUDIA RUTH BARBIERI, BARBIERI LAW, LLC, 18 CEDAR STREET, PO BOX 1445, NEW BRITAIN, CT 06050
2/25/2022 7155556

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Thanh L. Tran (22-00006)

The Hon. Michael A. Carrier, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Berlin Probate Court, by decree dated February 9, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Susan I. Meagher, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Kaylie Nguyen, 61 Hayes Street, New Britain, CT 06053
2/25/2022 7155636

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Joseph M. Calise (20-00872)

The Hon. Michael A. Carrier, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Berlin Probate Court, by decree dated February 4, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Susan I. Meagher, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Joseph E. Calise
c/o TIMOTHY SCOTT GOETZ, GOETZ LAW, LLC, 43 N. MAIN STREET, WEST HARTFORD, CT 06107
2/25/2022 7155568

**Legal Notice
Invitation to BID
Town of East Haddam**

The Town of East Haddam invites bids for the sale of surplus vehicles and equipment. Specifications are available in the First Selectman's Office or by calling (860) 873-5021.

Said bid must be in a sealed envelope clearly marked SURPLUS BID ENCLOSED. Mail to the Board of Selectmen, Town of East Haddam, Municipal Office Complex, P.O. Box 385, Moodus, CT 06469.

All sealed bids will be accepted at the Selectman's office until 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 10, 2022 and will be opened at that time and date. No FAX bids will be accepted.

The Town of East Haddam reserves the right to waive any informalties or defects in any bid. The Town reserves the right to accept other than the highest bid if the Board of Selectmen, in its sole discretion, deems it to be in the best interest of the Town to do so. Bids, amendments to bids or withdrawal of bids after the time set for bid acceptance will not be considered.

Dated at East Haddam, Connecticut
This the 25th day of February, 2022

Irene M. Haines
First Selectman
2/25/2022 7156521

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Zoning Commission of the Town of Old Saybrook will hold a public hearing at its regularly scheduled meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 4, 2022 in the 1st floor conference room, Old Saybrook Town Hall, 302 Main Street and via teleconference to consider the following:

Petition to Amend the Old Saybrook Zoning Regulations for Animal Care Services as a Special Exception Use in the B-4 zone.

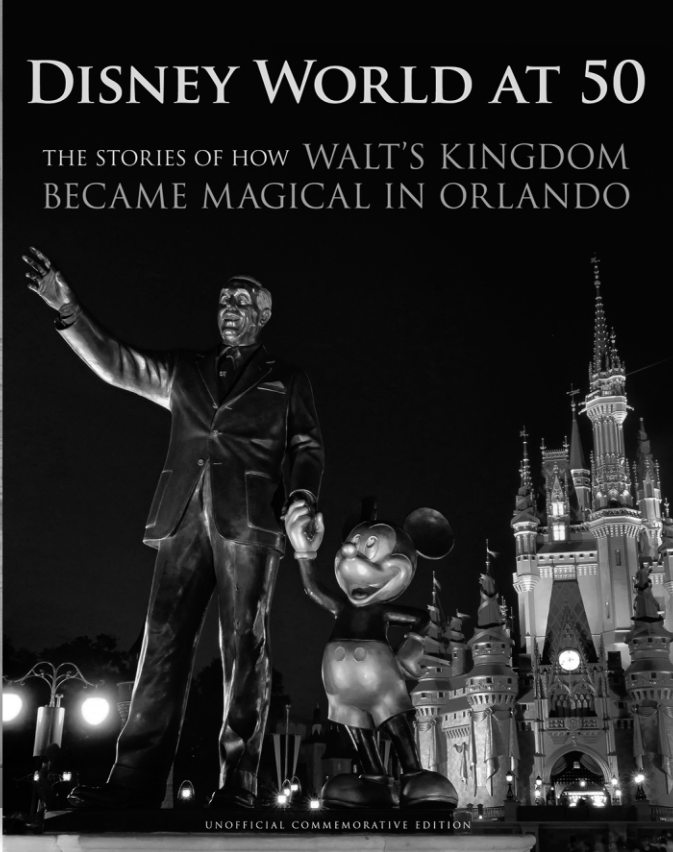
Sect. 9 new definition of animal care services, new Sec. 34.2.15 Animal Care Services as Special Exception Use and 53 Special Standards.

Applicants: Janet & Michael Stoner
Agent: Attorney Terry Lomme

Public Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/92356062093?pwd=WEZSYVdRcm1Dcm1s4d2wMGRVUitZ09>
Meeting ID: 923 5606 2093
Meeting Passcode: 302302
Teleconference Dial-In: (929) 436-2866
One Tap Mobile:
tel://9294362866,,92356062093#

At this hearing interested parties may appear and be heard and written communications may be submitted in advance via email to chris.costa@oldsaybrookct.gov or regular mail. Copies of applications and plans are on file in the Land Use Department, Old Saybrook Town Hall, 302 Main Street and at www.oldsaybrookct.gov/zoning-commission

OLD SAYBROOK ZONING COMMISSION
Robert C. Friedmann, Chairman
2/25 & 3/3/22 7154662




DISNEY WORLD AT 50

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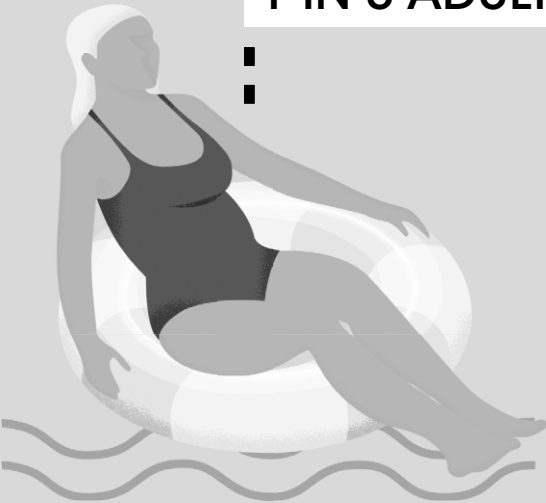
UNOFFICIAL COMMEMORATIVE EDITION

Disney World at 50

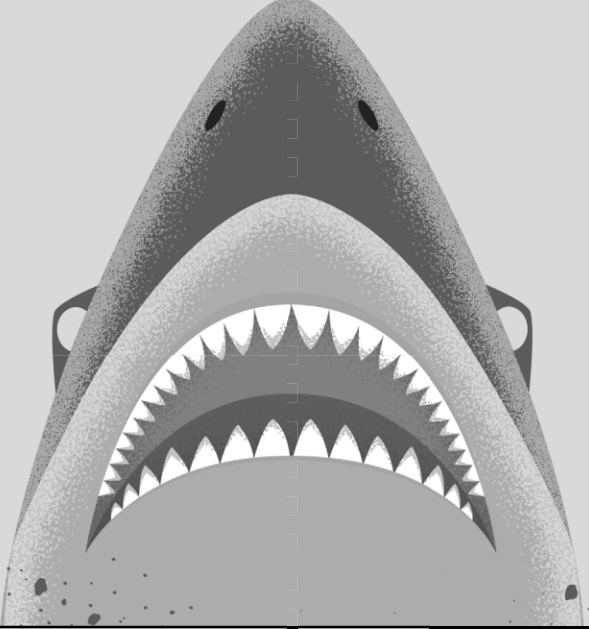
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Scott hasn't always had great work-life balance

But tension as actor makes him right for dual 'Severance' role

By Alexis Soloski
The New York Times

“Severance,” an unnerving workplace drama, was originally scheduled to begin filming in March 2020, but pandemic shut-downs pushed the shoot to the fall. So in October 2020, Adam Scott, the show’s star, left his family in Los Angeles and flew to New York. For more than eight months, on the days when he could work — production paused a few times for positive tests, and Scott himself caught COVID-19 in February 2021 — he was driven to a busy studio in the South Bronx and surrounded by (shielded, masked) colleagues. Then he was driven back to a silent Tribeca apartment where he spent his nights alone, which made for an odd parallel with the show itself.

“Severance,” now streaming on Apple TV+, takes a speculative approach to work-life balance. Scott plays Mark Scout, a department chief at Lumon Industries. Mark and his co-workers have each voluntarily undergone a surgical procedure known as severance, which creates a mental cordon so that your work self has no knowledge or memories of your home self and vice versa. Think of it as an NDA. For the soul.

Scott, 48, hasn't always had great balance. “My boundaries are all over the place,” he said. “I’ve often put far too much of my self-worth into whether I’m working or not and the perception of my work once I’ve done it. That’s unhealthy.” Living by himself, away from his wife and two children, grieving his mother who had died just before the pandemic, that balance

didn’t get better. Still, the job gave him a place to put those feelings. The role demands that he alternate between the guileless “innie” Mark, a vacant middle manager, and the dented “outtie” Mark, mourning his dead wife. Some scenes have the feel of a workplace comedy, a genre Scott knows intimately after six seasons on “Parks and Recreation.” Others have the feel of a thriller, a drama, a sci-fi conjecture — all styles he is less familiar with. Ultimately, this dual role allows Scott to do what he does best: play a blandly handsome everydude while also showing the pain and shame and passion underlying that pose. “He has this understanding of how strange it is to be normal,” said Ben Stiller, an executive producer and director of the series. “There’s a normalcy to him, a regular guyiness. He also has an awareness that there’s no real regular guy.” Scott has only ever wanted to be an actor. As a child in Santa Cruz, California, he watched as a film crew transformed his street into a set for a miniseries version of “East of Eden.” The road became dirt. The houses reverted to their Victorian origins. Horses and carriages drove past his lawn. This was magic, he thought, and he wanted to do whatever he could to enter what he called “that crazy magical make-believe world.” He acted throughout school, except for a year or two in high school. He enrolled in a two-year program at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in Los Angeles. A classmate and fast friend, Paul Rudd, admired his work even then. “I’m like, this guy’s really funny,” Rudd remem-

bered. “And dry and really bright, obviously.” Scott graduated at 20, made the rounds and spent a decade and a half booking just enough work to keep himself solvent — a few episodes here, a supporting part in a movie there — without ever feeling like he’d arrived. “I was hanging on by a piece of floss, for 15 years,” he said. Then it happened. He landed a role in the 2008 Will Ferrell-John C. Reilly comedy “Step Brothers” after another actor dropped out. Then he starred as Henry in the cult Starz comedy “Party Down,” replacing Rudd, who had other commitments. He missed out on a role on the NBC sitcom “Parks and Recreation,” but the show’s creators brought him in at the end of the second season as Ben Wyatt, a love interest for Amy Poehler’s Leslie Knope. Suddenly, he had become a left-of-center leading man. In “Step Brothers,” he played a yuppie chucklehead, but the roles in “Party Down” and “Parks and Recreation” felt more personal. He brought those years of not making it to Henry, a would-be actor whose career has been deformed by a series of beer commercials, and to Ben, a strait-laced accountant with a disreputable past. “I was like, oh, of course, I feel deeply all of these things,” Scott said, “Having been here for 15 years and not having a whole lot to show for it, and being a bit wounded by the circumstances of this town.” He loved the work. “His defining characteristic is that he just really wants to do a good job,” said Michael Schur, a creator of “Parks and Recreation.” “He has a powerful



“Parks and Recreation” alum Adam Scott, who is seen on Jan. 31 in Los Angeles, is starring in another workplace series, but this one is more dystopian. PHILIP CHEUNG/THE NEW YORK TIMES

store of humility,” said Nick Offerman, his “Parks and Recreation” co-star. Offerman also said that what Scott does so well — on-screen, but maybe off-screen, too — is to embrace what he called “a sort of geeky normalcy, the flavor of behavior that most people try to avoid if they can help it, because it’s too human.” Scott isn’t cool. Unapolgetic in his fandom, he has even made a podcast about how much he loves U2. His enthusiasm for R.E.M. is legendary. Often his characters go a little too hard, want things a little

too much. But several of his colleagues also identified a kind of reserve in him — a sense that he holds something back while performing, which makes the performance richer. “There is something about the set of his eyes,” Schur said. “You just sense that there’s depth there, something that you can’t immediately access.” Poehler, Scott’s “Parks and Recreation” co-star, echoed this. “There’s a very internal, secret, secretive part of him as an actor,” she said. That tension makes

him right for the linked roles of “Severance.” The try-hard part works for the “innie” Mark, a man who just wants to do a great job, no matter how bizarre the job is. And that reserve helps with “outtie” Mark, who spackles his pain with booze, jokes and distance. “It’s the same guy,” Scott explained. “It’s just one is more or less clean, and the other has lived many years and has gone through a lot of things.” Playing the “outtie” made him realize how much he had pushed away his own grief over his mother’s death. So that’s in there, too.



Rachel Brosnahan, left, and Alex Borstein in “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel.” AMAZON STUDIOS

Characters starting over in new ‘Marvelous Mrs. Maisel’ season

By Kate Feldman
New York Daily News

Midge Maisel marvelously messed things up this time. In the third season of “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel,” the show’s titular comedian got her big break as the opening act for singer Shy Williams on his tour. She then threw it away by hinting to an Apollo Theater crowd that Shy is gay, getting her bounced from the European leg of the tour. Now, she is starting over. “They certainly are feeling the weight of this giant error in judgment that Midge made heading into season four,” star Rachel Brosnahan said, referring to Midge and her manager Susie. “This is a moment where they feel like everything they worked so hard for is on the line, and they have to think bigger and better and smarter to get themselves out of it. But Midge and Susie work best when they’re fueled by fury and desperation.” The fourth season of the Prime Video series, now streaming, sees the fledgling funnywoman refocus, deciding that she’s not

made to be an opener. She gets the headline, or she doesn’t take the stage. “Most comedians are angry. There’s something they’re upset about. I think it’s a good thing for a comic to have that sense of anger,” said Alex Borstein, who plays Susie. “And I think a lot of times in this business, when you’re swatted down, it’s kind of like Obi-Wan: You come back more powerful than ever. She may have dodged a bullet. Would a career of opening for people have been what she wanted? Is this forcing her to challenge herself even more? Sometimes the business gives exactly what you need.” Despite the chaos that Midge creates, her unwitting accomplices — Mom Rose, Dad Abe, ex-husband Joel and her former in-laws Moishe and Shirley — stay on the roller coaster (sometimes literally, at Coney Island). “Family is family. It’s permanent. You try to move on, you try to allow your kids to have autonomy, but somehow you’re always connected,” said Tony Shalhoub, who plays Abe. “It’s a mish-mash, and it’s never-ending.”

Midge has also dragged everyone out of their ruts, whether voluntarily or not. Others are at square one as well: Abe has a new career doing theater reviews for the Village Voice, Rose is launching her matchmaking business, and Joel has his comedy nightclub, The Button Club. And Susie faces a crisis: She is deep in debt and without family to rely on. “Without chaos, the show would be pretty boring,” said Michael Zegen, who plays Joel. “It depends on which side of her chaos you’re on,” chimed in Luke Kirby, who plays comedian Lenny Bruce. And the chaos is enough to keep the characters — and the series — moving forward. It was recently announced that the show was renewed for a fifth — and final — season. With the changes the characters are experiencing, there seems to be plenty of ground to cover. “I’m sure it didn’t feel great for everyone when they were caught in the crossfire, but it’s been a reinvention opportunity for almost every character in the show,” Brosnahan said.

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19): It’s likely that being ignored is the last thing you want. You’ll probably be wanting to get credit for anything you’ve done well lately. Maybe the reward for your efforts will be simple gratitude or a compliment.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Creating a brighter future is likely to be on your mind now. You may feel compelled to try something new. It doesn’t need to be a big deal — even small additions can add up over time and make a difference in the long run. Once you’ve taken the first step, you’ll find it easier to develop a reasonable plan.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): Being negative can come too easily at the moment. Looking more closely at your life could seem like it emphasizes all of your mistakes. It can also show you how to bring positive changes. It won’t happen overnight, but it will happen sooner if you get started now.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Compromise could be your special talent today. The trick is working out when to fight for exactly what you want and when to give in. Not all battles are worth the risk. You may be able to avoid a confrontation entirely by suggesting a third way that is acceptable.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Baby steps can make a big difference now. You may wonder if making an effort worth it, particularly if you’ve had problems in the past. Do your best to focus on what you’re doing today, rather than worry about what you’ll be doing next month or next year. Minor progress is still progress.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A boost to your confidence may help you today. It might be much easier to attract compliments if you’re prepared to hand them out in return — as long as they’re still genuine. Avoid just sitting back and basking in the glow of how wonderful you are. Instead, make an effort to follow the golden rule!

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Domestic tasks you’ve been ignoring can be dealt with now. Sorting out any outstanding chores will help clear the way for more interesting things to come. You’ll probably be kept busy, but there’s nothing you can’t handle! Plan things out before you roll your sleeves up.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can find a way to express what you feel. Once you understand yourself better, it’ll probably be much easier to make yourself understood. It might be helpful to jot down some of your feelings. Writing things down to clarify them might be all you need.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Money could be on your mind currently. You might worry about not having enough. Instead of fretting, consider taking a close look at what you already have to see if you can organize it better. Payments may be going out of your account for things you’ve forgotten about.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Trust your instincts about people today. If you sense someone is uncomfortable or upset, you may want to change the way you react to them accordingly. People are likely to pick up on your intuitiveness and trust you because of it — at least, as long as you’re actually being genuine with them.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): We all need a break now and then, and this might be an ideal time to claim yours. Backing away from the daily hustle will help you recharge your batteries. Even an hour on your own where you can relax could be enough to make a difference. Spend your lunchtime in the park.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On Feb. 25, 1919, Oregon became the first state to tax gasoline, at one cent per gallon.

In 1957, the Supreme Court overturned a Michigan statute making it

a misdemeanor to sell books containing obscene language that would tend to corrupt “the morals of youth.”

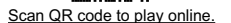
In 1964, Muhammad Ali became world heavyweight boxing champion as he defeated Sonny Liston in Miami Beach.

In 1973, the Stephen Sondheim musical “A Little Night Music” opened

at Broadway’s Shubert Theater.

In 1997, a jury convicted chemical fortune heir John E. du Pont of third-degree murder, deciding he was mentally ill when he shot and killed David Schultz.

In 2010, in Vancouver, the Canadian women beat the United States 2-0 for their third straight Olympic hockey title.



WORD SEARCH

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TRIQUETRAL
ULNA
VERTEBRAE
VOMER
ZYGOMATIC

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

L	A	N	D	S	C	A	P	E
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“”

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- DOWN
- 1 "Father Knows ____"
- 2 Singer ____ James
- 3 Series for Wendi McLendon-Covey
- 4 Actress Leoni
- 5 "A Nightmare on ____ Street"; Johnny Depp horror movie
- 6 Suffix for command or auction
- 7 Pop singer Bobby ____
- 8 Beast of burden
- 9 Cruise or Hanks
- 10 Actor on "NCIS"
- 13 Flavor enhancer letters
- 15 Prefix for form or cycle
- 17 Wine and dine
- 18 Home for the Loudons on "Newhart"
- 20 Just fine, for short
- 21 Prefix for angle or pod
- 22 ____ out a living; make ends meet
- 25 "____ & Order"
- 26 ____ moment; instant of sudden realization
- 27 Fabray, to friends
- 28 "According to ____"
- 29 King Kong, for one
- 31 Howard or Glass
- 33 Actor Holbrook
- 35 Bark in a high sharp way
- 37 "____ Upon a Time"
- 38 "Never ____ Kissed"; Drew Barrymore movie
- 39 "____, Bilko"; film for Steve Martin and Dan Aykroyd
- 40 Historical period
- 41 Monogram for Winnie-the-Pooh's creator
- 42 Request for silence
- 43 Night we watch "Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.": abbr

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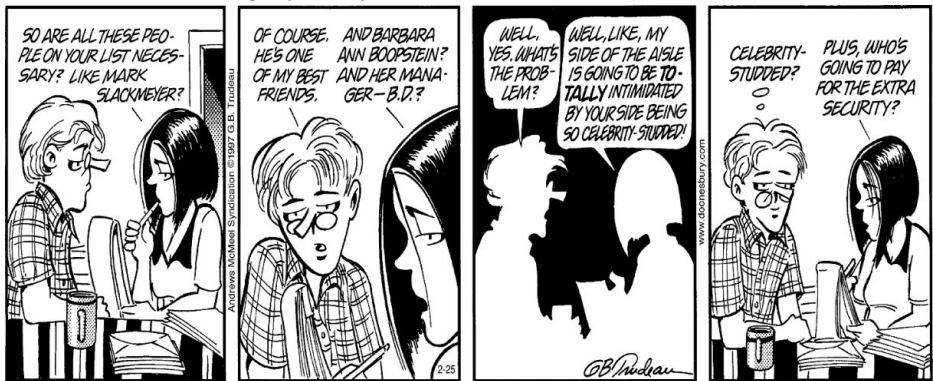
KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES



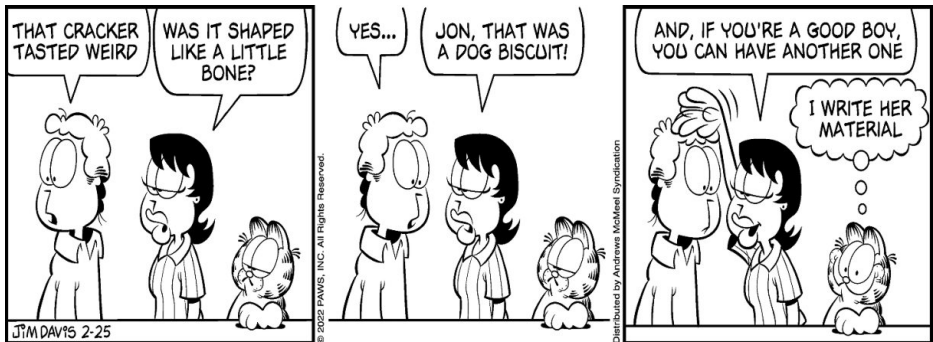
Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz



Classic Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau



Garfield By Jim Davis



Shoe By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



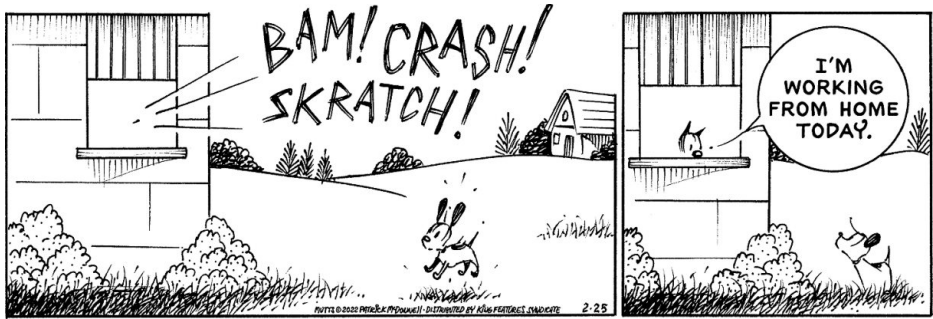
Dustin By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker



Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis



Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



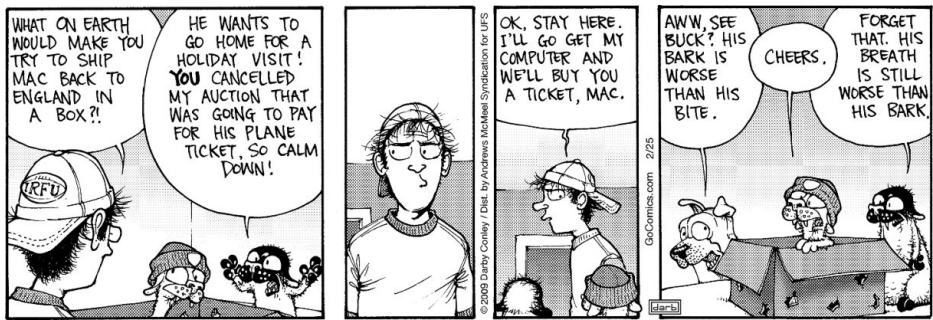
Arctic Circle By Alex Hallatt



Jump Start By Robb Armstrong



Get Fuzzy By Darby Conley



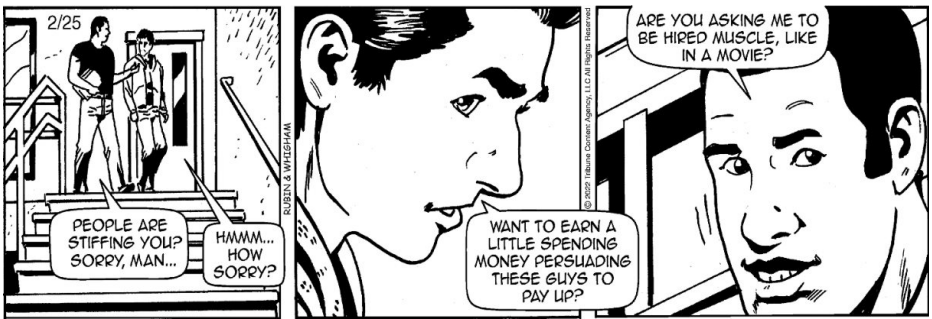
Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall



Dilbert By Scott Adams



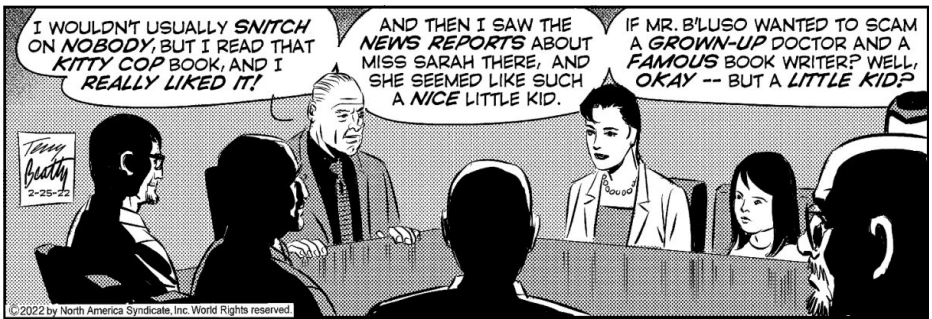
Gil Thorp By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin



Mary Worth By Karen Moy and June Brigman



Rex Morgan, M.D. By Terry Beatty



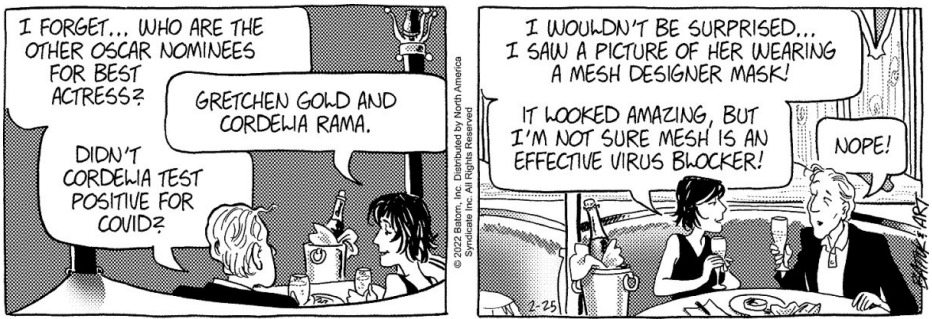
Judge Parker By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley



Baldo By Cantu and Castellanos



Funky Winkerbean By Tom Batiuk



Lio By Mark Tatulli



Wizard Of Id By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker



Rhymes With Orange By Hilary Price

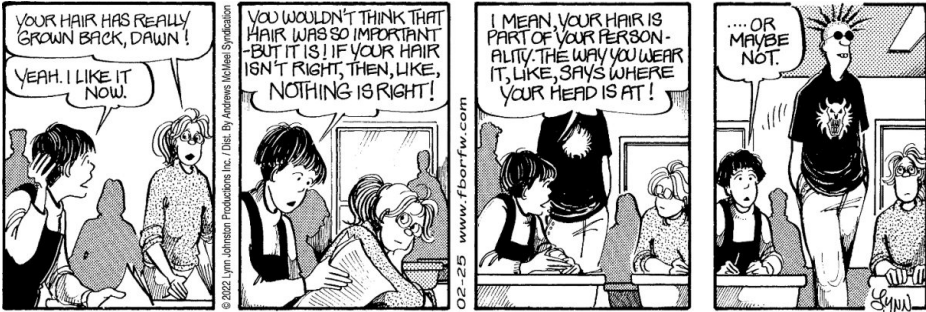


Monty By Jim Meddick



For Better Or For Worse

By Lynn Johnston



B.C.



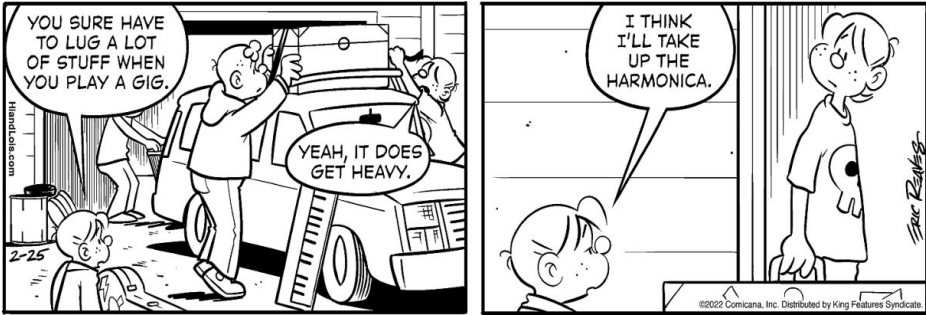
Beetle Bailey

by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker



Hi & Lois

By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne



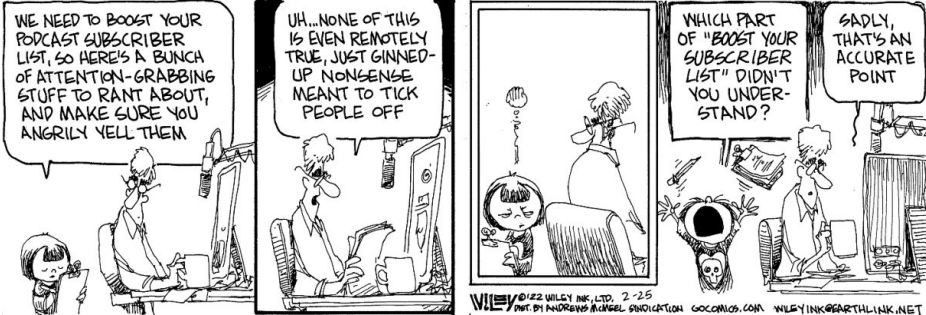
Hagar The Horrible

By Chris Browne



Non Sequitur

By Wiley Miller



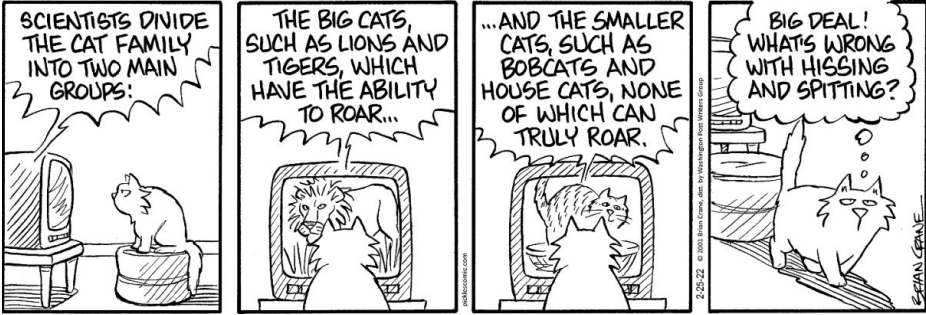
Curtis

By Ray Billingsley



Pickles

By Brian Crane



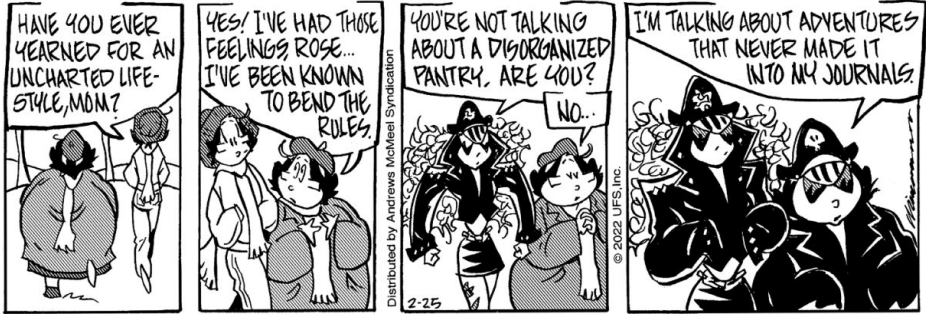
Zits

By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



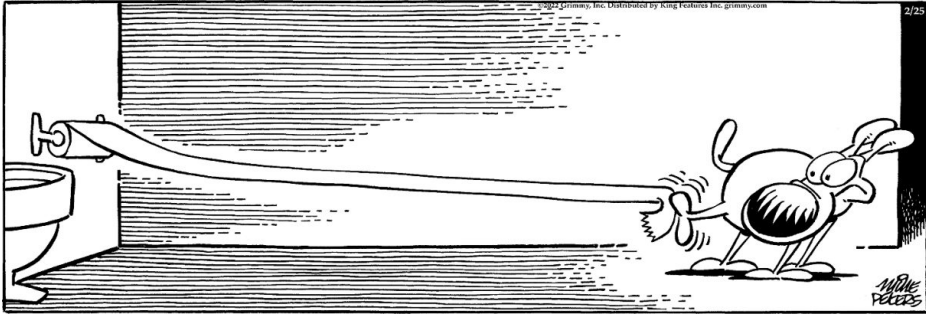
Rose Is Rose

By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer



Mother Goose And Grimm

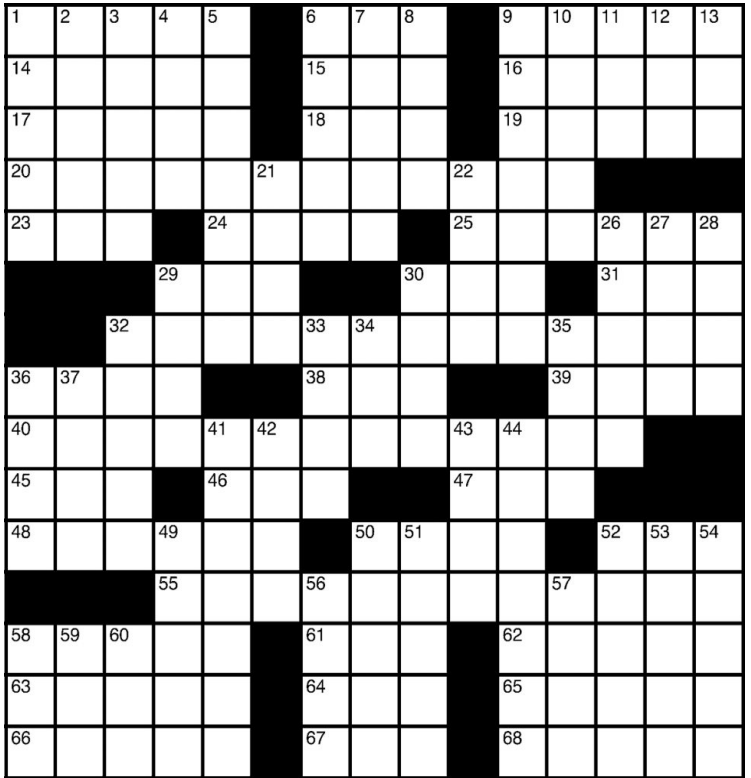
By Mike Peters



CROSSWORD

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- Across**
- 1 Go on or come off
 - 6 Had a bite
 - 9 Checks
 - 14 Prize money
 - 15 Jorja of the "CSI" franchise
 - 16 Something bid
 - 17 Agenda entries
 - 18 Brief plan for the future?
 - 19 Artful evasion
 - 20 Aroma of a freshly grilled steak?
 - 23 Hosp. areas
 - 24 Sweet little sandwich
 - 25 Employs a hard sell
 - 29 Nemesis, say
 - 30 Third of a game?
 - 31 "These ___ times ...": Paine
 - 32 Horror film writer's mantra?
 - 36 Paralyze with surprise
 - 38 Beige cousin
 - 39 García Lorca wrote them to Whitman and Dalí
 - 40 What Stanford University catchers' gear protects?
 - 45 Stein filler
 - 46 Choice word
 - 47 Native suffix
 - 48 Laundry room supply
 - 50 Some Drs.
 - 52 Small Indian state
 - 55 "Always dust before you
- Down**
- 1 Express views
 - 2 More like a puppy
 - 3 Teams
 - 4 Mil. branch
 - 5 Result of a botched line
 - 6 Lit
 - 7 Tailor's dummy, e.g.
 - 8 Skills barometer
 - 9 Gambler's concern
 - 10 Stars watched by many
 - 11 Shadow target
 - 12 Part of a journey
 - 13 WNBA star Bird
 - 21 Land measure
 - 22 Sweeping
 - 26 Jazz ___ dance technique
 - 27 Pennsylvania city on I-90
 - 28 Establishes
 - 29 Back
 - 30 A whole bunch
 - 32 Tomato product
 - 33 Night light
 - 34 Shakespearean prince
 - 35 Actress Skye
 - 36 Healing sign
 - 37 Unlikely
 - 41 Under control
 - 42 NYC neighborhood above Houston Street
 - 43 Obscure
 - 44 "I should probably get going"
 - 49 Soreness
 - 50 ___-Bismol
 - 51 Cold War concern ... and what created 20-, 32-, 40- and 55-Across?
 - 52 Insinuate
 - 53 Valuable
 - 54 According to
 - 56 Iranian bread
 - 57 Street fair treats
 - 58 E-___
 - 59 Nitrogenous dye
 - 60 Commuter org. in the Loop



By Karen Lurie Tribune Content Agency 2/25/22

BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

Bidding quiz

You are South, both sides vulnerable. The bidding has gone:

West North East South
1[D] 1[S] Pass ?

What would you bid with each of the following five hands?

- 1. [S] A84 [H] 87 [D] 653 [C] KQ974
- 2. [S] KJ7 [H] AJ952 [D] 64 [C] K83
- 3. [S] 95 [H] Q83 [D] A107 [C] KJ752
- 4. [S] Q2 [H] KJ4 [D] KQ10 [C] A10983
- 5. [S] J [H] AQ842 [D] 985 [C] J642

1. Two spades. It might first be best to define partner's one-spade bid. Most overcalls on the one-level are based on eight to 12 high-card points and a good suit, although partner could have as many as 16 points in high cards. The one-spade overall should therefore tentatively be regarded as merely a competitive bid and not the equivalent of an opening bid.

Though it is not likely that the combined hands contain the wherewithal for game, you should nevertheless raise partner's spades, partly to allow for the possibility that he has a strong hand, and partly to make it more difficult for the opponents to compete. A bid of two clubs would not be wise as it is not forcing and would deny spade support, and at the same time would make it easier for West to bid again at a lower level.

2. Three spades. This time game prospects are much brighter, and your three-spade bid invites partner to continue on to four spades if his overall is above the minimum range. Some partnerships play that a cue-bid of two diamonds in this situation would be an invitational spade raise, in which case three spades would be treated as a preemptive bid.

3. One notrump. Game is unlikely, but it's much better to bid one notrump than to pass. This will give partner another chance

to bid if he happens to have a strong hand. It would be wrong to bid two clubs, which would indicate better clubs and would also understate the all-around value of your hand.

4. Three notrump. It's hard to imagine a hand partner can have where you won't have a good play for nine tricks. A jump to two notrump (invitational) would be an egregious underbid. Partner might dislike notrump and retreat to four spades, but your values are fully adequate for that contract as well.

5. Pass. You shouldn't go looking for trouble by bidding two hearts. Partner's suit should be at least as good as yours, and if he lacked support for hearts and rebid his spades, you'd be worse off than you were before. This is the type of hand that suggests a possible misfit, and experience teaches that the sooner you let go in misfit hands, the better off you will be.

Tomorrow: A giveaway program.

JUMBLE

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

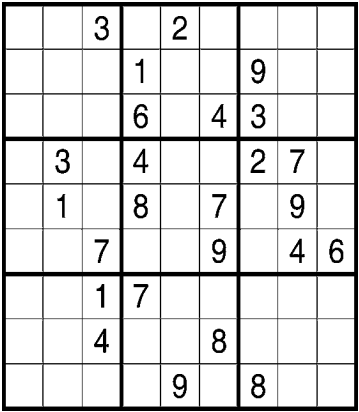
NEVTE
PALYP
MRUEMS
SCITTR

Answer "here: [] - []"

(Answers tomorrow)

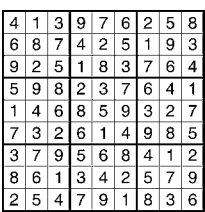
Yesterday's Jumbles: ODDLY STAFF PELVIS DRIVEL
Answer: Getting medical advice from the internet can sometimes be — ILL-ADVISED

TODAY'S SUDOKU

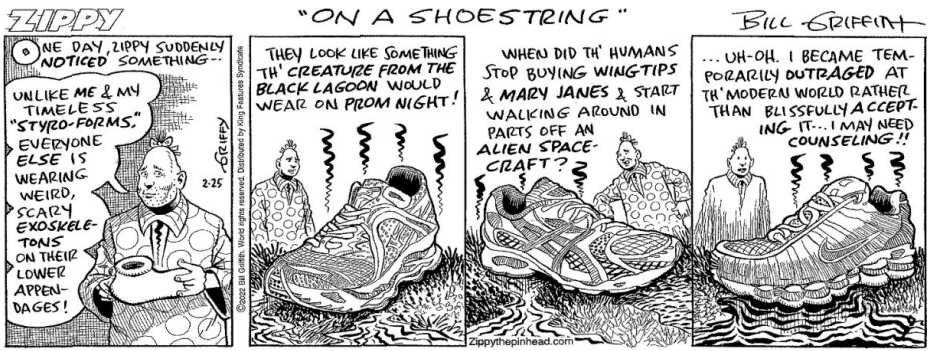
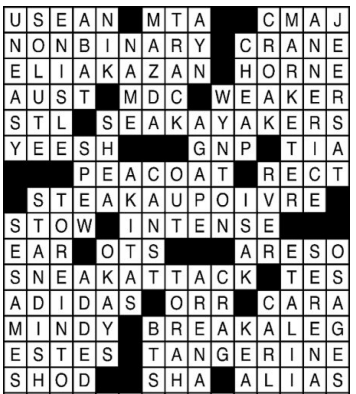


Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE



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I asked what kind of family Amina wanted. She said, ‘A family like yours.’ That’s when I knew I had to adopt her.

Denise, adopted 17-year-old Amina

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Hartford Courant

SPORTS

COURANT.COM / SPORTS

UCONN MEN'S BASKETBALL

Building up his team — and himself — for the moment

'Cool guy' Cole has steadied Huskies, become leader, closer

By Shreyas Laddha
Hartford Courant

R.J. Cole is known as a “cool guy.” When the UConn’s men’s basketball team needed a bucket trailing Villanova by one in the finals seconds of Tuesday’s game

at the XL Center, Cole hit a tough runner over the Wildcats’ Brandon Slater to put the Huskies up 70-69 with 5.2 seconds remaining.

On the very next possession, Cole drew a game-clinching charge on Villanova’s Collin Gillespie — his 19th of the year — as the No. 21 Huskies beat No. 8 Villanova, 71-69, for the first time since 2014.

“He’s a very, very cool guy,” UConn coach Dan Hurley said.

Up next



UConn at Georgetown
noon Sun., CBS

“He’s a very fun, kind of funny and he’s just the definition of a ‘cool guy.’ He’s got a style about him. I think it helps him be very relatable and develop a friendship with everybody he plays with, which is

part of leadership as a point guard or as a quarterback.”

When Hurley was ejected after back-to-back technicals with a little less than five minutes left in the first half, it would have been easy for UConn to fall apart. Cole didn’t allow himself or his teammates to lose their cool.

“[I] definitely had to keep my composure. But at the same time

Turn to Cole, Page 4



UConn's R.J. Cole, front, and Tyrese Martin celebrate Cole's basket to put the Huskies ahead in the closing seconds Tuesday against Villanova.

JESSICA HILL/AP

UCONN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Bueckers is back

ST. JOHN'S PREVIEW

Timing is everything

Redshirt senior Westbrook playing best ball as calendar turns to March

By Dom Amore
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — After a series of difficult games, UConn women’s basketball redshirt senior Evina Westbrook was reassigned from the starter to kickstarter.

“I said, ‘Evina, we don’t have anybody coming off the bench that changes the game, so that’s going to have to be you, and that’s all there is to it,’” UConn coach Geno Auriemma said. “I actually, I think I just said, ‘Nika [Mühl], you’re starting,’ and Evina figured out the rest.”

With Mühl starting and Westbrook coming off the bench most of February, the UConn women’s basketball team began figuring out how best to employ its healthy players. The Huskies have won nine in a row with Westbrook coming off the bench. In those games she’s shooting 58.5 percent as opposed to 37.9 percent in games she started.

The transfer from Tennessee, in her second season playing for UConn, “is the Evina I always thought she’d be,” Auriemma said.

Turn to UConn, Page 4



UConn's Paige Bueckers passes the ball to Dorka Juhasz during warm ups at the XL Center on Saturday. Bueckers has been practicing with the team to prepare to return after being sidelined with an injury for more than two months, and will suit up for today's game against St. John's. CLOE POISSON/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

Star guard cleared to return after 2 months out with injury

By Dom Amore
Hartford Courant

Paige Bueckers is ready to return to action with the UConn women’s basketball team. Out since Dec. 5 with a knee injury, she was cleared by the medical staff to play Friday night against St. John’s.

Bueckers, the national player of the year as a freshman, was injured on Dec. 5 in the final minutes of a victory over Notre Dame. Diagnosed with an anterior tibial plateau fracture and lateral meniscus tear, she underwent surgery on Dec. 13.

She was averaging 21.2 points through six games. The Huskies played 19 games without her, going 15-4, clinching the Big East regular-season title on Wednesday.

Bueckers will certainly be limited in minutes, probably playing a short stint Friday, then a little more Sunday against Providence to slowly build up for the postseason. UConn, ranked seventh nationally, will start play in the Big East tournament at Mohegan Sun on March 5.

Coach Geno Auriemma said earlier this week that Bueckers was unlikely to return before the end of the regular season, but noted that she has a way of healing quicker than expected. She dressed and went through warmups with the team before Wednesday’s game against Marquette as part of her incremental rehab process, then

Turn to Bueckers, Page 4

Up next



St. John's at UConn
7 p.m., SNY

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

Henry's buzzer-beater lifts East Hartford to CCC title

By Lori Riley
Hartford Courant

ENFIELD — There were 3.7 seconds left in the CCC girls basketball championship game between Newington and East Hartford.

Newington had just taken a two-point lead.

Both teams had struggled to score throughout the game. East Hartford did not hit a basket in the third quarter and only one in the fourth.

Finally, the ball was

inbounced, went to East Hartford’s Kayla Henry in the corner. She believed. She let it fly.

She hit the 3-pointer and the buzzer went off and there was bedlam in the stands and on the court. Second-seeded East Hartford (22-2) had beaten top seed Newington once again, 31-30, Thursday night at Enfield High for its first CCC tournament title.

“The most important thing is the power of positivity and

belief,” East Hartford coach Jon Myette said.

“There was no doubt in my mind,” Henry said. “If we had the chance, we were going to take it. I’m just glad that it went in and I had the confidence to shoot it.”

Newington (22-2) was the defending conference champion. The Nor’easters’ only two losses came to East Hartford - the first a 52-37 setback Jan. 28 behind 17 points from Shailyn Pinkney, which snapped Newington’s

31-game win streak.

It was the final matchup between two of the top players in the state — Pinkney, headed for Seton Hall next year, and Lilly Ferguson, headed to UMass. They will not play each other in the CIAC state tournament because East Hartford is in Class LL and Newington is in Class L.

On Thursday, Pinkney had 17 points, Ferguson 14, including two free throws with 3.7

Turn to CCC, Page 6



East Hartford's Kayla Henry, center, celebrates with her team after hitting the game-winner in the CCC tournament final against Newington on Thursday.

JESSICA HILL/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

Did you know?

Many drivers think 4-wheel drive vehicles are safer to operate under all conditions of winter weather driving and end up driving too fast. The truth is these vehicles can make moving forward or reverse a bit easier but do not improve stopping distances.

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SPORTS

UP NEXT

UConn MBB: at Georgetown, Sunday, noon; at Creighton, Wednesday, 8:30 p.m.; DePaul (Gampel), March 5, 5 p.m.
UConn WBB: St. John's (XL), Friday, 7 p.m.; Providence (Gampel), Sunday, 2 p.m.; Big East Quarterfinal vs. TBD, March 5, noon
Celtics: at Pistons, Saturday, noon; at Pacers, Sunday, 5 p.m.; Hawks, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Knicks: Heat, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; 76ers, Sunday, 1 p.m.; at 76ers, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Nets: at Bucks, Saturday, 8:30 p.m.; Raptors, Monday, 7:30 p.m.; at Raptors, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
UConn hockey: at Northeastern, Friday, 7 p.m.; Northeastern, Saturday, 3 p.m.; Vermont, March 4, 7 p.m.
Bruins: at Sharks, Saturday, 10 p.m.; at Kings, Monday, 10:30 p.m.; at Ducks, Tuesday, 10 p.m.
Rangers: at Penguins, Saturday, 3 p.m.; Canucks, Sunday, 7:30 p.m.; Blues, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Wolf Pack: at Springfield, Friday, 7 p.m.; Providence, Saturday, 7 p.m.; at Providence, Sunday, 3 p.m.

TV/RADIO

BASEBALL
6 p.m.: Quinnipiac at NC State. (Live) ACC
BASKETBALL
6 p.m.: Akron at Ohio. (Live) CBSSN
7 p.m.: Women's College: St. John's at UConn. (Live) SNY
7 p.m.: Saint Louis at Richmond. (Live) ESPN2
7 p.m.: Manhattan at Marist. (Live) ESPNU
7 p.m.: Northwestern at Penn State. (Live) FS1
7:30 p.m.: Heat at Knicks. (Live) ESPN, MSG
9 p.m.: Texas State at Troy. (Live) ESPN2
9 p.m.: Iowa at Nebraska. (Live) FS1
10:05 p.m.: Clippers at Lakers. (Live) ESPN
11 p.m.: San Jose State at San Diego State. (Live) FS1
GOLF
2 p.m.: Honda Classic, Second Round. (Live) GOLF
GYMNASTICS
6 p.m.: Women's College: Missouri at Alabama. (Live) SEC
7:30 p.m.: Women's College: Kentucky at Auburn. (Live) SEC
9 p.m.: Women's College: Georgia at Arkansas. (Live) SEC
HOCKEY
7 p.m.: College: UConn at Northeastern. (Live), NESNPlus
7 p.m.: Blue Jackets at Hurricanes. (Live) SPRTNET
8 p.m.: Western Michigan at North Dakota. (Live) CBSSN
8:30 p.m.: Devils at Blackhawks. (Live) NHL
9 p.m.: Wisconsin at Minnesota. (Live) ESPNU
11 p.m.: Kings at Ducks. (Live) SPRTNET
RUGBY
1 a.m.: NRL Rugby Parramatta Eels vs Penrith Panthers. (Live) FSP
3 a.m.: NRL Rugby St. George Illawarra Dragons vs South Sydney Rabbitohs. (Live) FSP
SOCCER
3 p.m.: Premier League Soccer Southampton vs Norwich City. (Live) USA
10 p.m.: Mexico Primera Division Soccer Tijuana vs Atlas. (Live) FSP



Arizona first baseman Austin Wells catches the ball during the team's NCAA game against Grand Canyon in April 2019 in Phoenix. The Yankees selected Wells in the first round of the baseball draft in June 2020. **RICK SCUTERI/AP**

YANKEES

As his defense improves, Wells' bat still tantalizes

By Kristie Ackert
New York Daily News

TAMPA, Fla. — Last year, Austin Wells turned heads at the Yankees' early workouts with his left-handed power at the plate. This spring he came into the minor league mini-camp having earned praise for his work behind it.

While the 2020 first-round pick has shown improvement as a receiver and the player development staff have praised him for it, there is still a chance his path to the majors is at another position.

"Depending on where some of our other guys are, there might be an opportunity to get him some reps [at other positions]," Yankees vice president of player development Kevin Reese said this week at the team's minor league mini-camp. "He might be competing with Josh Breaux in Double-A or something like that where we have a couple of different prospects at the same place. Then we might have to get a little bit creative to keep his bat in the lineup. But none of that is a concern about his catching."

For Wells, that final comment is encouraging.

He likes his usual position and is committed to it as long as the Yankees want him to work there.

"I do love catching," Wells said.

The 28th overall pick in 2020 who came into the draft with questions about his defense, feels he has made big strides.

"Definitely in receiving," Wells said. "That's the biggest jump. It was night and day from when I got here until now."

In fact, Reese and others in the organization praised Wells for improving his receiving. One American League scout who watched the 22-year-old in the Arizona Fall League said that he noticed a difference not only in Wells' framing, but also throwing.

"I definitely questioned his arm strength before the draft, but it looked better this year," the scout said. "He's serviceable behind the plate and will likely progress some, but I would guess he would be

"Depending on where some of our other guys are, there might be an opportunity to get him some reps [at other positions]."

— Yankees vice president of player development Kevin Reese, on Austin Wells

moved for his bat." Wells, who has also played first and the corner outfield coming up, was drafted as an offense-first prospect. With a solid swing and good approach to the strike zone, he has raw power — which he displayed winning the most outstanding offensive player in the wood-bat Cape Cod League — combined with the ability to take walks.

Last year, at low-A Tampa, Wells got off to a slower start, but hit .259 average with nine home runs, 54 RBI and a .877 OPS before earning a promotion after 65 games. At high-A Hudson Valley, Wells hit .274 with seven homers, 22 RBI and a .849 OPS. Overall, in 469 plate appearances Wells drew 71 walks and struck out 117 times. At the Arizona Fall League, he hit .344/.456/.578 with two homers, five doubles and 18 RBI. In 17 plate appearances he drew 13 walks and struck out 16 times.

It was that offense that turned heads last spring and ultimately that lefty power getting to Yankee Stadium is what the team is most concerned about.

"He can hit; we really like his swing," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said last spring after watching Wells in the early pitchers and catchers' workouts. "One of the things that stands out to me is that I didn't necessarily know how strong he is. He's as strong as anyone in camp, especially when you test them and everything. Some of the conversations that he's having are pretty advanced from a hitting standpoint. This is a guy that loves hitting and understands it a little bit."

RED SOX

Sale among group of Sox pitchers gathering to work out in Florida

By Andrew Mahoney
Boston Globe

Major League Baseball players may be locked out by the owners from spring training facilities, but that has not stopped them from getting ready for the 2022 season, whenever that will be.

A group of Red Sox pitchers worked out at Florida Gulf Coast University on Thursday. Reliever Matt Barnes posted a live video on Instagram showing Chris Sale, Nick Pivetta, Jay Groome, Kutter Crawford, and Josh Winckowski working out at the school's baseball stadium. A group of players has been using the facilities at FGCU,

but Thursday provided a glimpse of their activity.

Sale is from Lakeland, Fla., and attended FGCU, where he pitched before he turned pro after his junior year in 2010, having been selected with the 13th pick of the draft by the Chicago White Sox.

On Thursday, the lefthander took the mound to throw a bullpen session before taking the field and eventually facing live hitters.

Pivetta also threw live batting practice.

Pitchers and catchers were supposed to report to spring training on Feb. 15, with the Red Sox scheduled to begin play Friday against Northeastern at JetBlue Park.

RED SOX COMMENTARY

Stalling MLB talks not a good look for Henry, club

By Jason Mastrodonato
Boston Herald

BOSTON — Here's a reminder that in 2021, the Red Sox were considered the most expensive team in MLB for a family of four to watch in person.

It was last fall when the Fan Cost Index published a report that said the average family of four would spend \$376 for non-premium tickets, parking and concessions at Fenway Park, where it was more expensive than any other MLB venue.

It's important to think about this week as Red Sox owner John Henry is reportedly in Jupiter, Fla., with other MLB owners, who are trying to make an at-the-buzzer agreement with the MLB Players Association so the season can start on time. Without an agreement by Monday, it seems impossible that the Sox will actually play their home opener against the Rays, currently scheduled for Thursday, March 31.

How's the local nine's image holding up amidst the public relations crisis? Not great.

The timing isn't great for a Red Sox owner fighting to keep the luxury tax threshold down, repress the minimum salary and keep players under affordable team control as long as possible.



Red Sox owner John Henry bought the Red Sox in 2001, paying approximately \$700 million. **AP FILE**

local cable or subscribe to FUBO.TV to catch Red Sox games if they're in the New England area, where MLB TV games are blacked out. The station no longer has an agreement with YouTube TV.

That's why many fans are wondering why the owners are insisting on keeping spending down as the consumer costs continue to rise.

Reporters in Jupiter have shared the details of negotiations on the next collective bargaining agreement and there is little hope for Opening Day on March 31.

The owners are insisting that the CBT remain at \$214 million, just \$4 million more than it was last year, when only two teams went above the threshold. The Red Sox and Yankees, long the big spenders in the baseball world, stayed under the threshold. They were two of five teams that were within \$4 million of the threshold but didn't go over.

It's only been a month since Forbes clocked Henry's Fenway Sports Group at an estimated net worth of \$9.81 billion, the third-most valuable sports group in the world. It's been less than four months since FSG purchased the Pittsburgh Penguins for a reported price of \$900 million. And it's been 20 years since Henry purchased the Red Sox for a reported price of \$660 million; the team is now estimated to be worth \$3.4 billion, more than five times the original price.

But worse than that, the Sox are in the midst of a spending cut. They fired the free-wheeling Dave Dombrowski at the end of the 2019 season and brought in an executive from the penny-pinching Rays, Chaim Bloom, who has yet to operate with a payroll above the league's luxury tax threshold.

Last year, the Sox had a payroll of \$187 million, their lowest since 2015. Two years ago, they traded their best player, Mookie Betts, rather than sign him to a long-term deal.

At the time, Henry explained, "We felt we could not sit on our hands and lose him next offseason without getting value in return."

Just a few minutes later, team president Sam Kennedy tried selling tickets in the middle of a press conference.

Ticket prices keep going up, and accessibility to the stadium, or to even watch the team, has gone down.

New England Sports Network (NESN), owned by the team, is not available via basic cable. Consumers need to purchase an expanded sports package on

PATRIOTS

Jones relishes having some downtime after the 'longest year' of his career

By Khari Thompson
Boston Globe

BOSTON — Patriots quarterback Mac Jones started all 17 games of his rookie season in the NFL and outperformed expectations for much of the year before hitting a wall at the end. He helped lead New England back to the playoffs after the team missed the postseason the year before. To top it off, Jones played in the Pro Bowl.

But as successful as the last two seasons have been for him, dating back to college, Jones is enjoying some time away from it all for the first time in a while.

"I think back to my freshman year at Alabama. You're kind of figuring everything out and then you get older and you're just more experienced. Everything. The media, the games,

everything," Jones said in a video interview published on the Patriots' website and social media accounts. "I think that's the fun part of about everything in the offseason. You get a second to just catch your breath and figure everything out. This has definitely been the longest year. It's been like almost two years of football. I love football. I love to keep going as best I can but it's always good to step away and evaluate what you can get better at, too."

To put it all in perspective, Jones jumped right into preparations for the NFL Draft — as many other college prospects are now doing — after winning a national championship with Alabama in January of 2021. Then, once the Patriots took him with the No. 15 overall pick in the 2021 draft, he had to immerse



Patriots quarterback Mac Jones walks on the sidelines during a Jan. 9 game against the Dolphins in Miami Gardens, Florida. **AP FILE**

himself immediately in his playbook and prepare for rookie minicamps and team activities.

Before long, though, it'll be time for Jones to prime himself for that second-year leap everyone is hoping to see, so he's not planning on straying too far from Foxborough.

SCOREBOARD

NBA				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Philadelphia	35	23	.603	—
Boston	34	26	.567	2
Toronto	32	25	.561	2 1/2
Brooklyn	31	28	.525	4 1/2
New York	25	34	.424	10 1/2
SOUTHEAST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Miami	38	21	.644	—
Atlanta	28	30	.483	9 1/2
Charlotte	29	31	.483	9 1/2
Washington	27	31	.466	10 1/2
Orlando	13	47	.217	25 1/2
CENTRAL				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Chicago	38	21	.644	—
Cleveland	35	23	.603	2 1/2
Milwaukee	36	24	.600	2 1/2
Indiana	20	40	.333	18 1/2
Detroit	13	45	.224	24 1/2
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
SOUTHWEST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Memphis	41	19	.683	—
Dallas	35	24	.593	5 1/2
San Antonio	23	36	.390	17 1/2
New Orleans	23	36	.390	17 1/2
Houston	15	43	.259	25
NORTHWEST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Utah	36	22	.621	—
Denver	33	25	.569	3
Minnesota	31	28	.525	5 1/2
Portland	25	34	.424	11 1/2
Oklahoma City	18	40	.310	18
PACIFIC				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Phoenix	48	10	.828	—
Golden State	42	17	.712	6 1/2
L.A. Clippers	30	31	.492	19 1/2
L.A. Lakers	27	31	.466	21
Sacramento	22	38	.367	27

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
Cleveland at Detroit, late
Boston at Brooklyn, late
Atlanta at Chicago, late
Memphis at Minnesota, late
Phoenix at Oklahoma City, late
Denver at Sacramento, late
Golden State at Portland, late

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Toronto at Charlotte, 7p.m.
Oklahoma City at Indiana, 7p.m.
Houston at Orlando, 7p.m.
San Antonio at Washington, 7p.m.
Miami at New York, 7:30p.m.
Philadelphia at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
New Orleans at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Dallas at Utah, 9 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at L.A. Lakers, 10p.m.

SATURDAY'S GAMES
Boston at Detroit, noon
Toronto at Atlanta, 7:30p.m.
Washington at Cleveland, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at Miami, 8 p.m.
Memphis at Chicago, 8:30p.m.
Brooklyn at Milwaukee, 8:30p.m.
Sacramento at Denver, 9p.m.

SUNDAY'S GAMES
Philadelphia at New York, 1p.m.
Utah at Phoenix, 3:30p.m.
Boston at Indiana, 5 p.m.
Detroit at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Houston, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Golden State, 7:30p.m.
Denver at Portland, 9 p.m.
New Orleans at L.A. Lakers, 10p.m.

MONDAY'S GAMES
Minnesota at Cleveland, 7p.m.
Indiana at Orlando, 7p.m.
Toronto at Brooklyn, 7:30p.m.
Chicago at Miami, 7:30p.m.
San Antonio at Memphis, 8p.m.
Charlotte at Milwaukee, 8p.m.
Sacramento at Oklahoma City, 8p.m.

SEASON REBOUNDING						
TM	ORB	DRB	TRB	RPG	OPP	
MEM	831	2101	2932	48.6	42.9	
BOS	642	2155	2797	46.6	44.7	
MIL	613	2174	2787	46.5	45.0	
PHO	587	2092	2679	46.2	44.5	
UTA	593	2080	2673	46.1	42.1	
OKC	614	2061	2675	46.1	49.0	
NYK	677	2041	2718	46.1	44.3	
GSW	573	2128	2701	45.8	42.8	
SAS	649	2026	2675	45.3	47.0	
CHO	663	2045	2708	45.1	47.9	
NOP	676	1980	2656	45.0	42.3	
CLE	599	2003	2602	44.9	43.3	
MIA	639	2005	2644	44.8	41.7	
TOR	749	1807	2556	44.8	44.3	
MIN	702	1942	2644	44.8	46.4	
LAL	557	2040	2597	44.8	47.1	
BRK	606	2039	2645	44.8	44.7	
IND	666	2006	2672	44.5	43.1	
ATL	577	1996	2573	44.4	43.7	
POR	607	1996	2603	44.1	43.7	
TM	ORB	DRB	TRB	TRB	TRB	
LAC	545	2131	2676	43.9	47.6	
DEN	533	2016	2549	43.9	42.7	
WAS	535	2004	2539	43.8	44.8	
SAC	610	2011	2621	43.3	45.9	
DAL	559	2016	2575	43.6	44.2	
ORL	544	2060	2604	43.4	47.0	
CHI	526	2032	2558	43.4	43.2	
DET	632	1852	2484	42.8	46.8	
HOU	568	1888	2456	42.3	45.0	
PHI	496	1959	2455	42.3	45.1	

REBOUNDS/GAME				TM	RPG	ORB	TRB
Rudy Gobert	UTA	14.8	155	651			
Nikola Jokic	DEN	13.8	148	718			
Clint Capela	ATL	12.1	186	603			
Domantas Sabonis	TOT	12.0	167	613			
Nikola Vucevic	CHI	11.7	106	609			
Jonas Valanciunas	NO	11.5	171	610			
G.Antetokounmpo	MIL	11.2	94	551			
Joel Embiid	PHI	11.2	91	514			
Jusuf Nurkic	POR	11.1	167	619			
Jarrett Allen	CLE	11.0	181	551			
Deandre Ayton	PHO	10.3	98	380			
Sam Adebayo	MIA	10.2	97	348			
Wendell Carter Jr.	ORL	10.2	106	520			
Julius Randle	NYK	10.2	104	582			
Christian Wood	HOU	10.2	93	550			
Anthony Davis	LAL	9.7	104	360			
Karl-An. Towns	MIN	9.7	146	505			
Robert Williams	BOS	9.7	185	457			
Steven Adams	MEM	9.6	251	537			
Luka Doncic	DAL	9.2	38	404			
Jakob Poeltl	SAS	9.2	190	449			
Bobby Portis	MIL	9.1	132	465			
Andre Drummond	TOT	9.0	147	470			

OFFENSIVE BOUNDING				OPG	ORB	RB
Steven Adams	MEM	4.5	251	537		
Mitchell Robinson	NYK	3.9	205	463		
Jakob Poeltl	SAS	3.9	190	449		
through Wednesday						

ODDS			
COLLEGE BASKETBALL			
FAVORITE	LINE	O/U	FRIDAY UNDERDOG
at Ohio	7		Akron at Ga. Southern 3
at Ga. Southern	3		La-Monroe at Georgia State 6 1/2
at Georgia State	6 1/2		La-Lafayette at Penn State 1 1/2
at Penn State	1 1/2		Northwestern at Monmouth 4
at Monmouth	4		St. Peter's at Iona 15
at Iona	15		Canisius at Marist 5
at Marist	5		Manhattan at Rider 1
at Rider	1		Niagara at Richmond at Arkansas St. 2
at Richmond	2		Appalachian St. at Princeton 8
at Princeton	8		Harvard Coastal Carolina 7 1/2
at Coastal Carolina	7 1/2		at UALR at S. Alabama 8 1/2
at S. Alabama	8 1/2		Tex-Arlington Texas State 1 1/2
at Texas State	1 1/2		at Troy Iowa 11
at Iowa	11		at Nebraska at San Diego St. 21 1/2
at San Diego St.	21 1/2		San Jose St.

NBA FAVORITE				FRIDAY UNDERDOG
at Indiana	7	(216%)	Okla. City	+25
at San Antonio	1 1/2	(225%)	at Washington Toronto	+22
Toronto	2	(226%)	at Charlotte at Orlando	4
at Orlando	4	(228%)	Houston Miami	4 1/2
Miami	4 1/2	(211%)	at New York Philadelphia	1
Philadelphia	1	(227%)	at Minnesota at Utah	6
at Utah	6	(216%)	Dallas at Phoenix	7 1/2
at Phoenix	7 1/2	(225%)	New Orleans at LA Lakers	1 1/2
LA Lakers	1 1/2	(223%)	LA Clippers	+100

For the latest odds, go to [FanDuel Sportsbook, https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/](https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/)

NHL											
EASTERN CONFERENCE											
ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA				
Florida	51	35	11	5	75	212	151				
Tampa Bay	50	33	11	6	72	174	142				
Toronto	50	32	14	4	68	179	141				
Boston	50	29	17	4	62	145	139				
Detroit	52	23	23	6	52	149	181				
Ottawa	50	19	26	5	43	134	159				
Buffalo	52	16	28	8	40	138	186				
Montreal	52	12	33	7	31	121	197				
METRO.	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA				
Carolina	50	35	11	4	74	176	121				
Pittsburgh	52	31	13	8	70	173	140				
N.Y. Rangers	50	32	13	5	69	151	127				
Washington	52	28	15	9	65	171	145				
Columbus	50	26	23	1	53	167	183				
N.Y. Islanders	46	19	20	7	45	116	128				
Philadelphia	51	15	26	10	40	129	180				
New Jersey	50	17	28	5	39	146	182				

WESTERN CONFERENCE											
CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA				
Colorado	51	37	10	4	78	204	145				
St. Louis	50	30	14	6	66	179	138				
Minnesota	48	31	14	3	65	186	147				
Nashville	51	29	18	4	62	159	147				
Dallas	50	28	20	2	58	146	147				
Winnipeg	51	22	20	9	53	147	153				
Chicago	52	18	26	8	44	126	176				
Arizona	51	13	34	4	30	116	189				
PACIFIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA				
Calgary	49	30	13	6	66	169	114				
Vegas	51	29	18	4	62	169	150				
Los Angeles	51	27	17	7	61	150	143				
Edmonton	51	28	20	3	59	171	166				
Anaheim	53	25	19	9	59	160	161				
Vancouver	52	24	22	6	54	140	158				
San Jose	50	22	22	6	50	134	148				
Seattle	53	16	33	4	36	137	190				

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
Columbus at Florida, late
Minnesota at Toronto, late
New Jersey at Pittsburgh, late
Washington at N.Y. Rangers, late
Dallas at Nashville, late
Boston at Seattle, late
Calgary at Vancouver, late
N.Y. Islanders at San Jose, late

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Columbus at Carolina, 7p.m.
Buffalo at St. Louis, 8p.m.
New Jersey at Chicago, 8:30p.m.
Winnipeg at Colorado, 9p.m.
Vegas at Arizona, 9:30p.m.
Los Angeles at Anaheim, 10p.m.

SATURDAY'S GAMES
Edmonton at Florida, 12:30p.m.
Washington at Philadelphia, 12:30p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Pittsburgh, 3p.m.
Montreal at Ottawa, 7p.m.
Tampa Bay vs. Nashville .
at Nissan Stadium, 7:30p.m.
Toronto at Detroit, 7:30p.m.
Boston at San Jose, 10p.m.
Colorado at Vegas, 10p.m.
Minnesota at Calgary, 10p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Los Angeles, 10:30p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Montreal 4, Buffalo 0
Colorado 5, Detroit 2
Dallas 3, Winnipeg 2(OT)
Tampa Bay 5, Edmonton 3
Los Angeles 3, Arizona 2

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SOCCER								
ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE								
CLUB	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT	
Man City	26	20	3	3	63	17	63	
Liverpool	26	18	6	2	70	20	60	
Chelsea	25	14	8	3	49	18	50	
Man United	26	13	7	6	44	34	46	
Arsenal	24	14	3	7	38	27	45	
West Ham	26	12	6	8	45	34	42	
Wolverhampton	25	12	4	9	24	20	40	
Tottenham	24	12	3	9	31	32	39	
Brighton	25	7	12	6	25	28	33	
Southampton	25	7	11	7	32	37	32	
Crystal Palace	26	6	11	9	36	37	29	
Leicester	23	7	6	10	37	43	27	
Aston Villa	24	6	8	13	31	37	27	
Brentford	26	6	6	14	27	42	24	
Leeds	25	5	8	12	29	56	23	
Everton	23	6	4	13	28	40	22	
Newcastle	24	10	10	26	45	47	18	
Burnley	23	3	11	9	21	29	20	
Watford	25	5	3	17	25	47	18	
Norwich	25	4	5	16	15	53	17	

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Friday: vs. St. John's (at XL Center), 7 p.m., SNY

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Sunday: at Georgetown, noon, CBS

UConn
COURANT.COM/SPORTS

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KNICKS

Former UConn star Walker, team agree to pull plug on lost season

By Steve Popper
Newsday

GREENBURGH, N.Y. — After arriving with hype and high hopes, Kemba Walker's debut season with the Knicks has come to an end. Walker will shut down for the remainder of the season because of his ailing left knee and focus on getting his body ready for next season.

"We fully support Kemba's decision to shut it down for the remainder of the season and to use this time to prepare for next season," Knicks President Leon Rose said in a statement. "His long-term success on the court remains our priority." When Walker was introduced during a news conference at Madison Square Garden last August, there were images of the

Bronx native on the video boards outside and a flashy video inside. Family and friends crowded in for this moment that seemed like it had been a lifetime in the making. But it has been a season filled with highs — an Eastern Conference Player of the Week honor — and lows — a benching that confounded even his teammates. It has now come to an abrupt and

not totally unexpected ending. While the Knicks search for a way out of a troubled season, gathering for a return to practice Wednesday, they will move forward without Walker the rest of the way. Walker played in 37 of the Knicks' 59 games, missing some to rest his knee and nine because Tom Thibodeau pulled him from the starting lineup and placed him at

the end of the bench. Walker averaged career lows in points (11.6) and assists (3.5). The high hopes both sides had when Walker signed on to take over as the point guard for a team in need of a floor general imploded. "We knew there was risk involved," Thibodeau said. "We thought it was worth it. There were some good moments. If he's healthy, he's good."



Evina Westbrook's leadership and resurgent play off the bench has helped the UConn women's basketball team

UConn

from Page 1

A heart-to-heart with UConn assistant coach Morgan Valley made a difference for Westbrook. "She said something that really resonated with me," Westbrook said. "So I have a different mindset going into every game, just keeping the same aspects of 'I've got to do what my team needs me to do.'" What was the message? "I'll just keep it between us," Westbrook said.

Westbrook came off the bench early, when Mühl got into foul trouble and led the way with 17 points and five rebounds as the Huskies beat Marquette 69-35 on Wednesday night to clinch the Big East regular-season title. The program has won nine conference titles in a row, between the Big East and American and 28 in its history. None quite like this, with Paige Bueckers, Aubrey Griffin, Azzi Fudd and so many other players missing significant time.

When the team bus wouldn't start for a game at Providence on Jan. 30, Westbrook and her teammates wondered what else could go wrong. "Providence had to send vans to come and get us," she said. "So we took separate vans, little mini vans. It was like AAU. Little things you'd never think would happen in college, with UConn basketball, you'd be going through. Everything that happened is stuff we couldn't even make up, imagine. Everyone has handled it really well, but the senior class, we knew we had to have a bigger response, bigger than normal."

Bueckers, the last and biggest piece of the injury puzzle, is returning to action Friday. The Huskies (20-5, 14-1 Big East) have regular-season games left against St. John's at the XL Center on Friday and Senior Day at Gampel Pavilion vs. Providence on Sunday. "Now it's just enjoying the moment," Westbrook said. "Enjoying the time with my teammates on

and off the court, making memories with them. It hasn't been a UConn year, we haven't blown every team out by this many points, we haven't won every game, we lost an in-season regular [conference] game, that isn't considered OK here. But went through it together, we've come out of it together, we're coming out of it together." Here's what you need to know about Friday's matchup against St. John's.

The basics

Site: XL Center, Hartford
Time: 7 p.m.
Series: UConn leads, 45-17
Last meeting: UConn defeated St. John's 75-57 on Jan. 23 in New York.
TV: SNY (Meghan Culmo, Allen Bestwick, Maria Marino)
Stream: In-market SNY viewers with access to the network can watch via the NBC Sports app: <http://stream.nbcsports.com/rsn/sny>. Out-of-market viewers can watch on the Fox Sports App or at <https://www.foxsports.com/> as well as on the FOX Now app or at www.fox.com/sports. The games might not appear on those sites until right around tipoff.
Radio: UConn IMG Sports Network on 97.9 ESPN (Bob Joyce, Debbie Fiske)

St. John's (11-16, 7-10 Big East) probable starters, sixth player

Camree Clegg, G, 5-5, GS; Lailani Correa, G, 6-0, Jr.; Unique Drake, G, 5-7, Jr.; Kadaja Bailey, G, 6-0, Sr.; Rayven Peebles, F, 6-3, Sr.; Danielle Cosgrove, F, 6-4, Sr.

UConn (20-5, 14-1) probable starters, sixth player

Olivia Nelson-Ododa, F, 6-5, Sr.; Azzi Fudd, G, 5-11, Fr., 6-5, Gr.; Evina Westbrook, G, 6-0, R-Sr.; Nika Mühl, G, 5-10, So.; Caroline Ducharme, G, 6-2, Fr.; Aaliyah Edwards, F, 6-3, So.

The matchup

UConn's offense: The Huskies have been inconsistent in their 3-point shooting and had turnover troubles lately with 39 in the last two games. With more healthy players, they are able to identify the hot hand and go with her, and it has been someone different each game.
UConn's defense: The Huskies are stifling with ball pressure and solid rim protection. Opponents are shooting 36.7 percent, 29.1 on 3s.
St. John's offense: Correa (17.8) and Bailey (13.8) are the top scorers. The Red Storm, at 73.8 points per game, are one of the top scoring teams in the conference. Clegg, who has been starting of late, is shooting 40.7 percent on 3-pointers.
St. John's defense: The Red Storm scoring defense (72.9) has improved slightly since they played UConn. They are turning opponents over 14.3 times per game but are allowing 43.6 percent shooting from the floor.
UConn keys: The Huskies are rolling right now, they just need to find more shots for Fudd, improve from the perimeter and tighten up on ball security.
Players to watch: Paige Bueckers, out since Dec. 5, 19 games, with her knee injury, has been cleared to play for UConn, but is not likely to play more than a few minutes as she works her way back slowly for the postseason. For St. John's, Bailey scored 21 points, going 10-for-17 against UConn on Jan. 23.
About St. John's coach: Joe Tartamella is 181-131 since coming to St. John's, becoming the winningest coach in program history with No. 177 on Feb. 3. Tartamella, 42, who went to James Madison, has been associated with St. John's as an assistant or head coach since 2005.
St. John's mascot: Johnny Thunderbird.
Famous alumni: Actor Ray Abruzzo, Lou Carnesecca, sports radio icon Mike Francesa.

Dom Amore can be reached at damore@courant.com

Bueckers

from Page 1

was cleared to play after a meeting Thursday morning with Dr. Robert Arciaro, chief of orthopedic surgery at UConn Health. "About a month ago, she walked in to athletic training room and she had a big swollen knee and everybody said 'this is not good,' and

'this is going to set you back a long time,'" Auriemma said. "And she came back two days later and it was gone. I said, 'what happened?' and she said, 'I'm different. I told God I needed the swelling to go down, and it went down.'" "I kid you not, this is the kind of stuff I've got to listen to. So the kid just has this knack. She heals at her own pace. We'll see what happens. 'Punxsutawney

Paige' If she sees her shadow, two more weeks of rehab? I don't know." All good for Bueckers, the 5-foot-11 sophomore who averaged 20 points, 5.7 assists, 4.9 rebounds, 2.3 steals to lead the Huskies to the programs 13th consecutive Final Four in 2020-21.

Dom Amore can be reached at damore@courant.com

CELTICS

Team eager to close season strong

BOSTON — Grant Williams was spotted holding a bag of ice to his face because, as Rob Williams described it, "He tried to dunk on Aaron (Nesmith)." "He said he didn't try to dunk on Aaron. Aaron just fouled him. He tried to dunk on him. But Aaron not going for it, but that's the competitiveness you love with our team." This is also the spirit that marked the Celtics' return to practice on Wednesday — their first action in a week after their loss to Detroit, snapping what had been a nine-game winning streak.

Sometimes a few post-break cobwebs have to be wiped away, but apparently not in the case of a Celtics team in sixth place, with room to climb further over the last 22 games of the regular season. The Celtics resume play Thursday night in Brooklyn against the same starless Nets team they beat on Feb. 8 — Kevin Durant, Ben Simmons and Joe Harris are still out, and Kyrie Irving is waiting for New York to finally lift its vaccination requirement — and Rob Williams has extra incentive. — Mark Murphy, Boston Herald

Cole

from Page 1

when coach went out, we had to win this game for him," Cole said. "Not just for him but the team as a whole. Tonight, we all stayed calm and kept our composure and we came out with the win." The guard hasn't always been the type of player to be vocal about his leadership, but that's been a big point of emphasis for him this season. "He's grown a lot recently, especially this year [he] is holding people accountable," Hurley said. "He's harder on himself to be more of an in-your-face type of leader at times when the moment is called for." "It's not natural for R.J. because he's a smooth guy, he's a cool guy. He's incredibly well liked. He's a guy that anybody on the team wants to hang with. If we are having a bad segment in practice and I'm flipping out, his evolution right now is he is getting on to somebody. He's ripping somebody before I do." On the court, the guard has shown maturity in late-game situations. Early in the season, Cole would try to do too much, leading to tough shots or turnovers in the clutch. The Huskies lost a lot of close games as they struggled to close out games. Nowadays, UConn has turned the tide, and Cole has been a major reason for that. "As a leader, his play down the stretch has improved so much from last year to this year in terms of making big free throws and making big plays," Hurley said. "That's a major part of leadership; being able to lead your team in big moments." The Huskies (20-7, 11-5 Big

East) are currently tied for third in the conference with Creighton, with Providence and Villanova ahead of them and are riding a four-game winning streak into their matchup against Georgetown on Sunday. The Huskies have three more games left in the regular season. On March 5, Cole will be among those honored on Senior Night against DePaul at Gampel Pavilion at 5 p.m. on Fox. Cole reflected on all of the improvements the Huskies are having as of late. "I think it goes with the growth, we've had throughout the season," Cole said. "We've had growing pains and couple of hiccups at the end of games. I think it shows our maturity and how well everybody is growing up on this team, from the freshmen to the seniors. We want this more than anything and continue to keep grinding out." And he wants to keep the positive momentum going in to what could be his final games in a UConn uniform. "We have three games left," he said. "We have to continue to win out and put ourselves in a great position heading into the Big East Tournament."

UConn fined after court-storming

UConn was fined \$5,000 by the Big East Conference on Wednesday after fans rushed the XL Center court following Tuesday's upset over Villanova. The fine is standard under Big East rules and can be paid to a charity of UConn's choice.

Shreyas Laddha can be reached at sladdha@courant.com or at [shre98](https://twitter.com/shre98) on Twitter



UConn's R.J. Cole reacts after making a late basket against Villanova on Tuesday. Coach Dan Hurley said of Cole: "As a leader, his play down the stretch has improved so much from last year to this year in terms of making big free throws and making big plays. That's a major part of leadership; being able to lead your team in big moments." JESSICA HILL/AP

Safety Tip of the Day

Snow and ice can block the nozzles that release wiper fluid onto your windshield. Regularly check the nozzles, and if they've become clogged with ice, use a de-icer.

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NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

US three-peats at SheBelieves Cup

Catarina Macario and Mallory Pugh each scored two goals and the U.S. women's national team beat Iceland 5-0 on Wednesday night to win the SheBelieves Cup in Frisco, Texas. The Americans won the annual four-team tournament, now in its seventh year, for the third straight year. The United States has 17th straight shutouts on American soil, dating to March 2020. The national team also is unbeaten in 65 straight games at home. Kristie Mewis also scored in the victory that came as the team celebrated an agreement with U.S. Soccer to settle a dispute over equitable pay with the men's national team. The two sides announced the agreement early Tuesday. Under the terms, U.S. Soccer will pay the \$24 million and commit to equitable pay and bonuses in the future. The women filed a lawsuit alleging gender discrimination in 2019. The deal is contingent on a new collective bargaining agreement. The two sides are currently in negotiations. Many of the veterans from the national team, including Alex Moran, Megan Rapinoe, Christen Press and Tobin Heath, weren't on the roster for the SheBelieves Cup as coach Vlatko Andonovski looked at younger players ahead of World Cup qualifying this summer.

Medvedev to No. 1 after Djokovic loss



Novak Djokovic will fall from No. 1 in the ATP rankings and be replaced by Daniil Medvedev after losing 6-4, 7-6 (4) to Czech qualifier Jiri Vesely in the quarterfinals of the Dubai Championships on Thursday. Djokovic's latest stay atop the rankings began on Feb. 3, 2020, and his total of 361 weeks there are the most for any man since the tour's computerized rankings began in 1973. On Monday, Medvedev, above, will move up from No. 2 for the first time and become the 27th man to reach No. 1. He won the U.S. Open in September and was the Australian Open runner-up each of the last two years. Djokovic congratulated Medvedev on Twitter, saying the Russian was "very deserving" of the No. 1 spot. Medvedev is the first man other than Djokovic, Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal or Andy Murray to be No. 1 since Feb. 1, 2004. "It's great for tennis to have somebody new at No. 1 again," Vesely said in his on-court interview. "Tennis needs new No. 1s. A new generation is coming up. I think it's just great." Medvedev is playing at the Mexican Open and on Thursday advanced to the semifinals.

NYC Marathon returning to full field

The New York City Marathon will return to full capacity with 50,000 runners this year after the race was canceled in 2020 and limited last fall due to the coronavirus. The announcement for the Nov. 6 event was made Thursday by New York Road Runners, which operates the marathon. After the 2019 NYC Marathon set a world record with 53,627 finishers, the 2020 race was called off that June as the city dealt with a public health crisis created by COVID-19. The marathon returned for its 50th running in November with a shrunken field of 25,010 runners, all of whom were required to show either proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test within 48 hours of the race. Spectators were encouraged to maintain social distancing, and some race-adjacent entertainment elements were scaled back. Organizers hope the 2022 race will bring the event back to its former standard, including the restoration of on-course entertainment throughout the five-borough course. Runners will have to show proof of full vaccination to enter. NYRR will open an entry drawing for runners in March. Runners slated to participate in the canceled 2020 race were given the option to re-enter in 2021, 2022 or 2023. —Associated Press



New York City FC players celebrate after beating the Portland Timbers to win the 2021 MLS Cup in December. GETTY FILE

SOCCER MLS SEASON PREVIEW

Here comes the pitch

Before World Cup, MLS set to conduct 27th season

By Anne M. Peterson
Associated Press

With the World Cup looming at the end of the year, Major League Soccer had to make some adjustments as it embarks on its 27th season. The league's 28 teams kick off this weekend, the earliest start ever with a quicker finish scheduled as MLS will make way for the World Cup in late November. And because of COVID-19, the 2021 MLS season didn't start until April, about six weeks later than usual, which led to a later championship and a scant 11-week offseason. New York City FC and the Portland Timbers have been impacted the most. NYCFC is the defending MLS Cup winner, lifting the trophy Dec. 11 on a penalty shootout after a 1-1 draw in Portland. NYCFC opens the upcoming season Sunday on the road against the LA Galaxy. The runner-up Timbers, meanwhile, will host defending Supporters' Shield winner New England on Saturday. The Revolution have gotten better with the addition of Sebastian Lletget, Omar Gonzalez and Jozy Altidore. Expansion Charlotte FC opens its inaugural season Saturday at D.C. United. Charlotte will play its home games at Bank of America Stadium, also home of the NFL's Panthers. It's the sixth straight season that MLS has added at least one new team. MLS Commissioner Don Garber has pointed to that expansion, even in the face of the pandemic disarray of the

last two seasons, as one of the league's successes. "Between 2017, five years ago, when Atlanta and Minnesota debuted and now 2022, we've added eight new teams, and all of this growth, both in our markets, on the field and off the field, and the momentum have come despite some major disruptions and challenges that have marked the last two years for all of us, and certainly for Major League Soccer," he said during his preseason address. The regular season will run through Oct. 9. The MLS Cup championship is set for Nov. 5. The World Cup in Qatar kicks off Nov. 21. Nineteen MLS players were on national team rosters for the 2018 World Cup in Russia. That number figures to be higher in Qatar. Betting on Vegas? After Charlotte, the league will welcome a new team in St. Louis next season. Las Vegas is the front-runner for the next expansion team, although Garber said the deal isn't done yet. "As soccer becomes more popular and more cities see the opportunity with their fans and their communities to host an MLS club, we have to process all that and determine whether MLS will be a 32-team (league) at some point in the future," Garber said. International flavor A handful of prominent international players joined the league for this season, among them Swiss striker Xherdan Shaqiri, signed by the Chicago Fire; Argentine attacker Alan

Velasco, brought in by FC Dallas; fellow Argentine Thiago Almada, acquired by Atlanta United; and Facundo Torres of Uruguay, signed by Orlando City. "I wanted a new thing to try and so the opportunity came to come to the U.S. and to come to this club to help to bring the glory back," Shaqiri said. Moving on A number of big names in MLS are off to Europe this season, including FC Dallas homegrown Ricardo Pepi, who went to Augsburg in the German Bundesliga, and Atlanta homegrown George Bello, who's also headed to Germany with Arminia Bielefeld. Daryl Dike left Orlando for West Bromwich Albion and D.C. United's Kevin Paredes is now with Wolfsburg. New England — and national team — goalkeeper Matt Turner is set to join Arsenal in the Premier League this summer. Also going to Arsenal in July is Colorado's Austin Trusty. New coaches There were eight coaching changes going into this season. Among the newcomers are LAFC's Steve Cherundolo, Houston's Paulo Nagamura, Chicago's Ezra Hendrickson, Cincinnati's Pat Noonan and Dallas' Nico Estevez. Two interim coaches were made permanent: Vancouver's Vanni Sartini and Salt Lake's Pablo Mastroeni. Bob Bradley left LAFC to take over at Toronto FC. Thirteen of the league's coaches once played in MLS, and seven played for the U.S. national team.

SOCCER

Russia no longer host of UCL final




By Rob Harris | Associated Press

UEFA will no longer host the Champions League final in St. Petersburg after Russia launched a wide-ranging attack on Ukraine on Thursday, the Associated Press learned. An extraordinary meeting of the UEFA executive committee will be held on Friday to discuss the geopolitical crisis and when officials are set to confirm taking the May 28 showpiece game out of Russia, a person with knowledge of the process said Thursday. UEFA did publicly rebuke Russia and said it was dealing with the "situation with the utmost seriousness and urgency" while confirming the meeting on Friday. "UEFA shares the international community's significant concern for the security situation developing in Europe and strongly condemns the ongoing Russian military invasion in Ukraine," the governing body said in a statement. "We remain resolute in our solidarity with the football community in Ukraine and stand ready to extend our hand to the Ukrainian people." As Russia's threats toward Ukraine had grown through the week, the British government and fan groups had already called for the final not to be played in St. Petersburg, where the stadium is sponsored by Russian state-owned energy giant Gazprom. The company is also the main sponsor of Schalke, but the German second-division club said Thursday that the Gazprom logo was being removed from its jerseys. A senior Gazprom executive also quit the supervisory board of the Gelsenkirchen-based club after being a target of U.S. sanctions. Matthias Warnig is CEO of the newly built but never operated Russia-to-Germany Nord Stream 2 pipeline which is a multibillion-dollar project of Gazprom and European companies. Critics said Schalke was used to popularize Gazprom in Germany as it pushed to construct the gas pipelines under the Baltic Sea, which bypassed Ukraine. Gazprom has been a sponsor since 2006 and provided the cash that fueled a run to the Champions League semifinals in 2011. UEFA's sponsorship by Gazprom is also under scrutiny with its branding having a significant profile this week at Champions League round of 16 games. UEFA's leadership had held off making a call on the Champions League final venue until Russia on Thursday started to target cities and military bases in Ukraine with airstrikes and shelling as tanks and troops rolled across the border. The International Olympic Committee said it "strongly condemns the breach of the Olympic Truce by the Russian government," days after the end of the closing of the Beijing Winter Olympics. The truce is intended to secure safe passage for athletes during the Games and, in the long term, promote the idea of working toward world peace. It runs until the end of the Paralympics, which are due to open in Beijing on March 4. The International Paralympic Committee condemned Russia and said it held talks with sports officials in Ukraine, which still plans to compete in Beijing and requires safe passage for its athletes. "This is a truly horrible situation, and we are greatly concerned about our National Paralympic Committee and Para athletes from Ukraine," IPC President Andrew Parsons said. "Our top priority right now is the safety and well-being of the Ukrainian delegation, with whom we are in regular dialogue." Russia's name, flag and anthem are already barred from the March 4-13 Paralympics in Beijing over previous doping disputes. Its team is due to compete as RPC, short for Russian Paralympic Committee. Russia has violated the Olympic Truce three times in 14 years, fighting a war with Georgia over the disputed territory of South Ossetia during the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics and launching a military takeover that annexed the Crimean peninsula of Ukraine after the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics closed. Focus is turning to Russia hosting other major sports events in the coming months. In tennis, the men's tour issued a statement announcing that the ATP Challenger tournament that was supposed to be played in Moscow next week "will not take place as scheduled," because of "concerns over player safety and uncertainty related to international travel following the recent escalation of events between Russia and Ukraine." In basketball, Barcelona said its team wouldn't fly to Russia for two games against Russian teams — Zenit St. Petersburg and CSKA Moscow — on Friday and Sunday. FIFA was yet to comment on Russia's scheduled hosting of a World Cup qualifying playoff semifinal against Poland on March 24 for the right to also host the winner of a meeting between Czech Republic and Sweden for a place in Qatar. The Polish, Czech and Swedish federations wrote to FIFA saying games should not be played in Russia. Formula One said it was "closely watching the very fluid developments" but made no further comment on whether its race in Sochi would be canceled in September. Four-time F1 champion Sebastian Vettel said he wouldn't compete at the Russian Grand Prix. "I will not go," the German driver said. "I think it's wrong to race in the country. I'm sorry for the innocent people that are losing their lives, that are getting killed (for) stupid reasons and a very strange and mad leadership."

AP writer James Ellingworth in Germany contributed.




WEATHER

FRIDAY






SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

SATURDAY






SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

SUNDAY






SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

MONDAY



SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

TUESDAY



SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Snow, sleet and freezing rain, then sleet and freezing rain. A change to rain is possible along the shoreline. Breezy.

HIGH 33°
LOW 12°

Sunshine, some fair weather clouds early, very chilly.

HIGH 32°
LOW 15°

Partly sunny, breezy and seasonable.

HIGH 39°
LOW 11°

Sunny, breezy and cold.





HIGH 27°
LOW 9°

Mixed clouds and some sunshine, not as cold.

HIGH 39°
LOW 26°

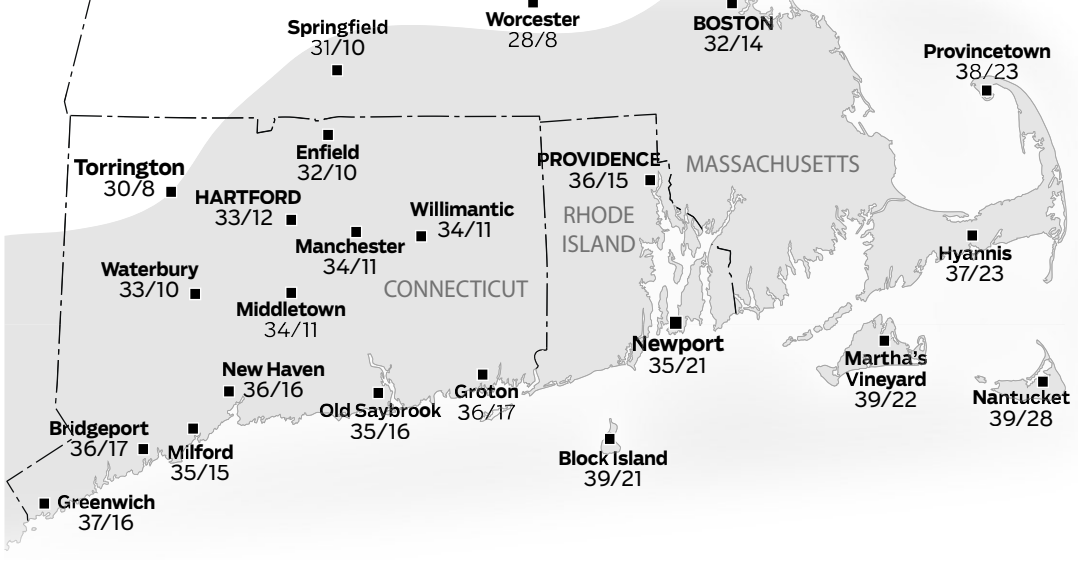
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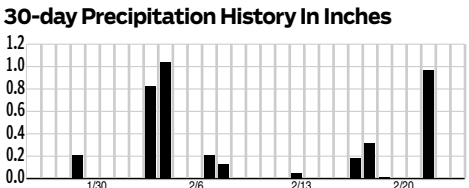
OUTLOOK

A Winter Storm Warning is in effect in northern portions of Connecticut on Friday, while a Winter Weather Advisory is in effect in southern areas. Lingerin

ALMANAC

Precipitation In Inches	Total	Normal
Yesterday (by 7 p.m.)	0.00	0.12
Month to date	3.74	2.64
Total this year	5.57	5.92
Snowfall In Inches		
Yesterday (by 4 p.m.)	0.0	0.4
Total this year	21.6	39.4

Precipitation, temperature at Windsor Locks



Tides	High	Low	Temp.
N.L. State Pier	4:13 a.m.	11:02 a.m.	40°
	4:45 p.m.	11:06 p.m.	
Saybrook Jetty	5:24 a.m.	11:55 a.m.	39°
	5:56 p.m.	11:59 p.m.	
Connecticut River at Portland	8:07 a.m.	2:40 a.m.	
Madison	8:39 p.m.	3:41 p.m.	39°
	5:33 a.m.	a.m.	
New Haven	6:14 p.m.	12:02 p.m.	
	5:53 a.m.	a.m.	38°
Stamford	6:34 p.m.	12:26 p.m.	
	5:57 a.m.	a.m.	38°
	6:38 p.m.	12:40 p.m.	
River Stage at Hartford:	11.45 feet at 6:30 p.m.		
Boating Weather	L.I. Sound W	L.I. Sound E	B.I. Sound N
Mix to rain	Rain	Rain	Rain
Wind	E/N, 10-20	E/N, 15-25	E/N, 15-25
Seas	2-3 ft.	2-4 ft.	4-6 ft.

Air Quality Forecast For Today

Good 33

Low 1

7

Air Quality Today

Ultraviolet Index Today

Wind Chill Today

Today

Tomorrow

Sunrise 6:32 a.m.

Sunset 5:35 p.m.

Moonrise 2:51 a.m.

Moonset 11:45 a.m.

6:31 a.m.

5:36 p.m.

3:58 a.m.

12:47 p.m.

Moon Phase

New Mar 2

First Mar 10

Full Mar 18

Last Mar 25

Western Connecticut State University Weather Center

AROUND THE WORLD

Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

NEW ENGLAND

Bangor 17 -2 SN
Burlington 21 3 SN
Caribou 9 -8 SF
Concord 27 7 SN
Montpelier 20 -2 SN
Mt. Wash. 8 -9 SN
Portland 26 9 SN
Woods Hole 38 21 I

NATION

Albany 31 9 SN
Albuquerque 51 29 PC
Atlantic City 51 21 SH

BOYS BASKETBALL

Shoreline
VALLEY REGIONAL 73, EAST HAMPTON 58
EAST HAMPTON (12-3): Ethan Palma 1-0-2, Brady Lynch 5-2-12, Drew DiStefano 5-0-13, Jye Lynch 8-0-16, Miller Koziel 2-0-4, Jack Blackley 1-0-2, Nate Ireland 1-4-6, Totals 24-6-58.
VALLEY REGIONAL (10-10): Di'Angelo Jean-Pierre 6-1-13, Simon Partyka 8-5-24, Andrew Yermenson 2-2-7, Kevin King 3-0-6, Sam Hutchinson 5-3-13, James Marsden 2-0-6, Brayden Shea 1-1-3, Totals 27-13-73.

BOYS BASKETBALL

EH 16 13 10 19 - 58
VR 14 12 21 26 - 73

Note:

Partyka had 5assists, 5steals, 3rebounds, Jean-Pierre had 7assists, 2steals and Yermenson had 8rebounds.
CROMWELL 64, WESTBROOK 44
CROMWELL (19-1): Gianluca Albert 7-3-23, Victor Payne 6-3-15, JJ Fehan 4-0-8, Logan Mure 0-1-1, Jake Salafia 4-0-9, Tyler Danielle 1-0-2, Keanu Gomez 1-0-2, Jovan Marrero 1-0-2, Sam Stergos 2-1-5, Totals 26-8-44.
WESTBROOK (3-16): Joseph Caslin 7-0-17, Samuel Freeman 2-5-9, Ryan Engels 2-0-4, Brandon Naccarato 4-6-15, Evan McIntyre 0-0-0, Totals 15-11-44.

C 9 20 23 12 - 64
W 8 9 13 12 - 44

Conference Tournaments

NCCC—Play-in Round
ROCKVILLE 56, COVENTRY 38
COVENTRY (10-11): Aiden Jeamel 2-1-6, AJ Rooks 2-0-5, Vinny LoRizzo 4-0-8, Wyatt Wendry 4-5-14, Nate Cordern 1-0-2, Gavin Covell 1-1-3, Totals 14-7-38.
ROCKVILLE (10-11): Juneil Powell 3-2-8, Weston LaBrecque 5-2-13, Jayden Tate 1-1-3, Cam Washington 1-0-2, Dylan Resendes 9-1-21, John Ryan 3-0-7, Eric Montez Jr. 1-0-2, Totals 23-6-56.

C 10 4 17 7 - 38
R 17 13 7 19 - 56

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Conference Tournaments
Shoreline—Semifinal
EAST HAMPTON 53, NORTH BRANFORD 37
NORTH BRANFORD (15-7): Callie Holzer 3-0-8, Braeden LeBeau 6-6-18, Keanu Criscuolo 4-1-10, Delaney Norman 0-0-0, Natalia Lucibello 0-1-1, Totals 13-8-37.
EAST HAMPTON (20-2): Amber Murphy 2-0-4, Olivia DeMartino 2-0-6, Liana Salamone 7-12-26, Delaney Russell 1-0-2, Jackie Russell 1-0-2, Jordan Murphy 1-0-2, Totals 17-14-53.

NB 11 8 8 10 - 37
EH 10 19 12 12 - 53

CTC—Semifinal
WINDHAM TECH 59, GOODWIN TECH 31
SCC—Final (Law HS)
SHA 55, HAND 37

BOYS SWIMMING

CCC
E.O. SMITH/TOLLAND 94, ROCKY HILL 78
Note: Ved Bathula won the 200free and 100back for Rocky Hill.

THURSDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

BOYS BASKETBALL

Others
BASSICK 86, PRINCE TECH 61
Conference Tournaments
CCC—First Round
CONARD 71, EAST HARTFORD 59
EAST HARTFORD (10-11): Favour Okeke 7-7-23, Dom Laduca 5-0-15, Zander Robinson 4-0-8, Chris Lomax 2-2-6, Matt Morgan 1-3-5, David Pardo 1-0-2, Totals 20-12-59.
CONARD (19-3): Riley Fox 10-4-27, Jalen Hamblin 8-7-23, Ryan Bushnell 4-1-9, Declan McCann 1-2-4, Mike Weiss 2-0-5, Jackson Morhardt 1-0-3, Totals 26-14-71.

EH 8 22 19 11 - 59
C 24 14 14 19 - 71

Note:

Hamblin had 17rebounds, 5blocks, 3steals and Fox had 10rebounds.
BRISTOL CENTRAL 66, LEWIS MILLS 29
LEWIS MILLS (11-10): Jon Schibi 3-0-8, Eli Pelletier 1-0-3, Charlie Joiner 1-0-2, Colby Cables 1-0-2, Bryce Waldron 1-0-2, Logan Cowger 1-0-2, Connor

BOYS BASKETBALL

Others
WINDSOR 91, SUFFIELD CO-OP 70

Wrestling State Open postponed until Saturday and Sunday

The State Open wrestling tournament, originally scheduled to take place Friday and Saturday at Floyd Little Athletic Center in New Haven, will now take place Saturday and Sunday due to the impending snowstorm.

Competition will begin Saturday at 12:45 p.m. and the championship semifinals and consolation quarterfinals are scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. The consolation semifinals start at 10 a.m. Sunday with the finals taking place at 12:15.

Danbury is the defending State Open champion from 2020 and has won the last four Open titles. There was no high school wrestling in Connecticut last year due to COVID-19.

— Lori Riley, Hartford Courant

FRIDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

BOYS BASKETBALL

Others: Westbrook at Whitney Tech, 6p.m.

BOYS HOCKEY

NHC: Woodstock Academy at Tri-Town, 8:20p.m.
Others: Westhill/Stamford at Lyman Hall, 8p.m.

BOYS SWIMMING

CCC: Platt/Maloney at Berlin, 6p.m.

SATURDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

BOYS BASKETBALL

Others: Fairfield Ludlowe at Maloney, 3p.m. Conference Tournaments

Shoreline—Quarterfinals: East Hampton at Hale-Ray, 4p.m.; Portland at Old Saybrook, 4 p.m.; Old Lyme at Cromwell, 5p.m.; Valley Regional at Morgan, 5p.m.

NVL—Quarterfinal (Wilby HS): St. Paul vs. Crosby, 11a.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Conference Tournaments
Shoreline—Final (Morgan HS): Valley Regional vs. East Hampton, 7p.m.

BOYS HOCKEY

CCC-North: Glastonbury at South Windsor, 3:10 p.m.; East Catholic at Northwest Catholic, 6:50 p.m.
CCC-South: Hall at Enfield co-op, 4:20p.m.; Rocky Hill co-op at Newington co-op, 8:20p.m.
SCC/SWC: Cheshire at Guilford, 3:30p.m.; East Haven co-op at Hand, 5:15p.m.
Others: Southington co-op at Sheehan, 4:30 p.m.; North Haven at Wethersfield, 5:50p.m.; Simsbury at Xavier, 6:30p.m.

WRESTLING

CIAC State Open, Day One (Floyd Little AC, New Haven), 11a.m.

GIRLS GYMNASTICS

CIAC Divisional Championships (Law HS, Milford): Class M, 10a.m.; Class L, 2p.m.; Class S, 6p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S LATE COLLEGE RESULTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

UMBC 92, HARTFORD 85
GNAC Tourney—Quarterfinal
ST. JOSEPH 95, ST. JOSEPH'S (MAINE) 45

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

UCONN 69, MARQUETTE 38
HARTFORD 74, UMBC 71
GNAC Tourney—Quarterfinal
REGIS 68, ST. JOSEPH 50

BASEBALL

FORDHAM 19, SACRED HEART 0

SOFTBALL

QUINNIPAC 4, SACRED HEART 1

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

IONA 20, CENTRAL 7
QUINNIPAC 11, SACRED HEART 8
FAIRFIELD 14, BOSTON UNIVERSITY 10

THURSDAY'S COLLEGE RESULTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

ST. FRANCIS (PA.) at CENTRAL, LATE
SIENA at QUINNIPAC, LATE
MOUNT ST. MARY'S at SACRED HEART, LATE
KEC Tourney—Semifinal
KEENE STATE at EASTERN, LATE

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

QUINNIPAC 65, MARIST 56
CENTRAL at ST. FRANCIS (PA.), LATE
SACRED HEART at MOUNT ST. MARY'S, LATE
MONMOUTH at FAIRFIELD, LATE
LEC Tourney—Semifinal
UMASS-DARTMOUTH 67, EASTERN 57

BRUINS

DeBrusk gets big chance with move up to top line

By Steve Conroy
Boston Herald

BOSTON — The first opportunity to play with Patrice Bergeron and Brad Marchand goes to Jake DeBrusk.

While the left shooting DeBrusk might not be the perfect fit to play right wing with the Bruins' two longtime linemates, his scoring pedigree and his recent improved play make him the most logical candidate to get the plum assignment, especially with the reunion of the successful Taylor Hall-Erik Haula-David Pastrnak unit. And with the new grind line of Trent Frederic-Charlie Coyle-Craig Smith giving teams fit, it made sense to move up DeBrusk.

DeBrusk has played most recently on a fourth line with Tomas Nosek and Curtis Lazar. Often times when offensive-minded players get plunked on a fourth line, their game goes in the tank. That did not happen for DeBrusk, who performed the grunt work well enough to keep the fourth unit an effective checking line. He's got 9-8-17 totals in 45 games.

Now DeBrusk, whose trade request became public in Novem-

ber, has a chance to put up some offensive numbers again and, at the very least, add to his value.

"He has to bring some of the attributes that he brings best — speed, create some turnovers on the forecheck because they're a line that will play both off the rush and puck pursuit," said coach Bruce Cassidy after the B's practice at Climate Pledge Arena. "What we'd ask of anybody on that line would be to hang onto pucks because they're a good cycle line, with second effort on pucks. And then play your game. He's a smart player, he's a good offensive player. Read off those guys."

Cassidy has liked what he's seen from DeBrusk on the defensive side of the puck lately, and that must continue with the matchups he'll now be seeing. His most recent work should have him prepared.

"Defensively, I think Jake's habits have been more consistent in terms of stick position in the D-zone. We'll remind them about those, correct when we need to, like anybody. Because they're going to be against good players. Mistakes can end up in your net quicker. That's typically what happens when you're on one of the top two lines," said Cassidy.

CCC

from Page 1

seconds left to give Newington a 30-28 lead.

But in the end, it was all about Henry.

"It's all about the screener, too, Elizabeth Kay set a great screen," Myette said. "We knew Kayla was going to go corner. Everyone did their job. Shai made the right pass and Kayla made the right shot."

Both teams struggled offensively throughout the game. East Hartford led 11-9 after one quarter and 20-19 at the half after Selah Prignano hit a 3-pointer with seven seconds left in the first

FRIDAY'S COLLEGE SCHEDULE

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
St. John's at UConn (XL), 7p.m.

MEN'S HOCKEY
Army at Sacred Heart, 6p.m.
WOMEN'S HOCKEY
Franklin Pierce at Sacred Heart, 4p.m. NESCAC Tourney—First Round Conn. College at Wesleyan, 7p.m.